

Expenditure Budget

2005 - 2006

Volume III

Annual Expenditure Management Plans
of the Departments and Agencies

Québec 

2005-2006

Expenditure Budget

Volume III

Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the Departments and Agencies

for the fiscal year
ending March 31, 2006

Tabled in the National Assembly
as required by section 46
of the Public Administration Act (R.S.Q., c. A-6.01)
by Mrs. Monique Jérôme-Forget,
Chair of the Conseil du trésor
and Minister responsible for Government Administration

ISSN 0706-0319

ISBN 2-551-22711-9

Legal Deposit, 2nd quarter 2005

Bibliothèque nationale du Québec

FOREWORD

This volume consolidates the annual expenditure management plans prepared by each minister as required by the Public Administration Act (R.S.Q., c. A-6.01). These plans present the choices made with regard to the allocation of resources and the actions envisaged to achieve the objectives stated in the strategic plans. A summary of the expenditure budget by portfolio appears at the beginning of this volume.

In addition to this volume entitled "*Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the Departments and Agencies*", three other volumes comprise the information on the 2005-2006 Expenditure Budget:

Volume I: Estimates and Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly

This volume contains information on the National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly, i.e. the Public Protector, the Auditor General, the Chief Electoral Officer and the Lobbyists Commissioner.

Volume II: Estimates of the Departments and Agencies

This volume presents the estimates of all appropriations required by the government for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. It distinguishes between the expenditure budget and the capital budget. Appropriations are broken down by portfolio and by program.

Volume IV: Message from the Chair of the Conseil du trésor and Additional Information

This volume begins with a message from the Chair of the Conseil du trésor that presents the highlights of the 2005-2006 Expenditure Budget. The chapters that follow provide further information on the expenditure budget and other information on related topics.

PREFACE

The Public Administration Act (R.S.Q., c. A-6.01) requires a consolidated set of documents to be tabled in the National Assembly: the strategic plan, the annual expenditure management plan and the annual management report—all in a perspective of accountability to the legislature.

Volume III of the expenditure budget contains the annual expenditure management plans for each portfolio assigned to a minister, meaning the department and budget agencies under his or her responsibility. While tabling Volume III of the expenditure budget in the National Assembly is the duty of the Chair of the Conseil du trésor, the responsibility for preparing and implementing the plans rests with each responsible minister.

The first section of Volume III is a table summarizing the expenditures for all portfolios for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 fiscal years. Each portfolio's annual expenditure management plan is then presented in the following format:

- The "PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO" section states the mission or purpose of the department and agencies that make up a portfolio. This section highlights the nature of the organization, its clientele, its fields of activity and its ends.
- The "BUDGETARY CHOICES" section discusses the choices made with regard to the allocation of resources and the actions considered to attain the stated objectives.
- The "BUDGET PLAN" section explains the evolution of the expenditure budget by program and the main changes :
 - the expenditure budget by program presents the 2005-2006 budget compared to 2004-2005, the difference between the two fiscal years, the 2004-2005 probable expenditure and the staff level;
 - the 2005-2006 capital budget is compared to the 2004-2005 fiscal year and contains the "Fixed Assets" and "Loans, Investments and Advances" supercategories;
 - a table covers the budget-funded and the extrabudgetary agencies reporting to the Minister, and their budgets for the 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 fiscal years;
 - special funds are presented separately and, for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, show the forecast revenues and expenditures, the expected surplus or deficit and investment as well as, if applicable, the fund's staff levels.

The same information for the National Assembly and Persons Appointed by the National Assembly is presented in Volume I of the expenditure budget.

Table of Contents

	Page
FOREWARD	
PREFACE	
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES	
Summary of Expenditures	11
ANNUAL EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLANS OF THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES	
Departmental Portfolios	
Affaires municipales et Régions	17
Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation	25
Conseil du trésor et Administration gouvernementale	31
Conseil exécutif	41
Culture et Communications	53
Développement durable, Environnement et Parcs	65
Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation	73
Éducation, Loisir et Sport	81
Emploi et Solidarité sociale	91
Famille, Aînés et Condition féminine	101
Finances	109
Immigration et Communautés culturelles	119
Justice	127
Relations internationales	135
Ressources naturelles et Faune	141
Revenu	147
Santé et Services sociaux	157
Sécurité publique	163
Services gouvernementaux	171
Tourisme	179
Transports	185
Travail	197

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES



SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

The Summary of Expenditures summarizes the budget information presented in the 2005-2006 Annual Expenditure Management Plans. The annual plans of the National Assembly and all of the government's departmental portfolios can be found respectively in Volumes I and III of the Expenditure Budget.

The following table compares the expenditure budgets of each portfolio for the fiscal years 2005-2006 and 2004-2005 and shows the changes between them. This table also shows the 2004-2005 probable expenditure.

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES ¹

	2005-2006		2004-2005 ²	
	Expenditure Budget	Change	Expenditure Budget	Probable Expenditure
	(1)	(2) = (1) - (3)	(3)	(4)
	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
National Assembly ³	94,822.4	557.7	94,264.7	94,264.7
Persons Appointed by the National Assembly ³	55,797.4	(1,874.4)	57,671.8	57,529.7
Affaires municipales et Régions	1,775,983.1	107,847.7	1,668,135.4	1,639,089.3
Agriculture, Pêcheries et Alimentation	653,052.5	5,997.5	647,055.0	660,126.2
Conseil du trésor et Administration gouvernementale	807,971.2	285,128.9	522,842.3	435,158.8
Conseil exécutif	250,752.2	(18,723.8)	269,476.0	219,201.5
Culture et Communications	535,880.5	1,118.9	534,761.6	521,504.6
Développement durable, Environnement et Parcs	177,940.8	(3,612.3)	181,553.1	183,050.2
Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation	576,389.2	(54,691.5)	631,080.7	582,355.9
Éducation, Loisir et Sport	12,201,927.1	314,290.1	11,887,637.0	11,881,410.7
Emploi et Solidarité sociale	4,011,705.2	(85,653.6)	4,097,358.8	4,083,195.9
Famille, Aînés et Condition féminine	1,634,402.2	122,787.3	1,511,614.9	1,500,086.2
Finances ⁴	213,725.2	(4,964.5)	218,689.7	148,775.2
Immigration et Communautés culturelles	99,290.6	(5,597.2)	104,887.8	106,955.4
Justice	612,486.4	17,878.8	594,607.6	633,218.7
Relations internationales	99,564.7	(986.1)	100,550.8	97,602.3
Ressources naturelles et Faune	390,943.0	(5,050.4)	395,993.4	379,489.4
Revenu	602,603.0	(17,015.4)	619,618.4	621,992.1
Santé et Services sociaux	20,862,000.0	780,880.6	20,081,119.4	20,035,872.5
Sécurité publique	906,326.3	11,761.2	894,565.1	940,433.4
Services gouvernementaux	53,948.8	3,415.8	50,533.0	43,798.8
Tourisme	138,647.1	9,278.5	129,368.6	145,968.5
Transports	1,808,288.3	128,383.7	1,679,904.6	1,656,528.3
Travail	63,732.9	(1,063.5)	64,796.4	74,581.7
Anticipated Lapsed Appropriations	(150,000.0)	(150,000.0)	-	-
Unexpended Appropriations	-	295,896.1	(295,896.1)	-
Appropriations Carried over in 2006-2007	(71,180.1)	(71,180.1)	-	-
PROGRAM SPENDING	48,407,000.0	1,664,810.0	46,742,190.0	46,742,190.0
DEBT SERVICE	6,995,000.0	127,000.0	6,868,000.0	6,868,000.0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	55,402,000.0	1,791,810.0	53,610,190.0	53,610,190.0

Summary of expenditures - References

- ¹ The information only pertains to the expenditure budget and therefore does not include extrabudgetary agencies and special funds. It also excludes the "Fixed Assets" and "Loans, Investments and Advances" supercategories included in the capital budget appearing in Volume II of the 2005-2006 Expenditure Budget.
- ² Program spending is presented according to the 2005-2006 budget structure. It includes changes that have occurred in the presentation of portfolios as well as corrections to the "Emploi et Solidarité sociale" and "Famille, Aînés et Condition féminine" portfolios in order to take into account financial assistance measures, which will be entered as a reduction in budget revenues beginning on January 1, 2005.
- ³ The information pertaining to the appropriations, expenditures and Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the National Assembly and the Persons Appointed by the National Assembly is presented in Volume I.
- ⁴ For the purposes of this table, the government debt service is excluded from the expenditures of the "Finances" portfolio. In Volume II of the 2005-2006 Expenditure Budget and in the Annual Expenditure Management Plans of the departments and agencies, the expenditures of the "Finances" portfolio incorporate debt service.

**ANNUAL EXPENDITURE MANAGEMENT PLANS
OF THE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES**

AFFAIRES MUNICIPALES ET RÉGIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

- The main budgetary issues that will characterize the activities of the overall portfolio for the next fiscal year are the following:
 - Provide financial support to municipalities through various programs to rebuild infrastructures and construct water supply and wastewater systems so as to ensure the development and renewal of municipal infrastructures;
 - Support the government's commitments to the Financial and Fiscal Pact reached with the municipalities in 2000;
 - Ensure the optimal development of all Québec regions by providing financial support to the Regional Development Fund (FDR), rural agreements, structuring and strategic projects, as well as territories experiencing difficulties;
 - Support the economic, social and cultural development of Greater Montreal by financing structuring projects;
 - Continue government interventions that aim to help households, particularly those with low incomes, gain access to affordable housing.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Regions' portfolio includes, in addition to the Department, the Commission municipale du Québec (CMQ), the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ), the Régie du logement and the Société québécoise d'assainissement des eaux.

As the entity responsible for municipal organization and regional development, the Department advises the Government and ensures interdepartmental coordination in these areas. Its mission is to encourage the following, in conjunction with the municipal organizations and regional development actors:

- The implementation and maintenance of a quality living environment and quality municipal services for all citizens;
- The development of regions and rural areas;
- The advancement and promotion of Greater Montréal.

The mission of CMQ is to act as an expert or decision maker in matters relating to territorial organization, supralocal equipment, municipal taxation, trusteeship, fees, investigation, and contract allocation, with a view to efficient and effective municipal administration.

The mission of the SHQ is to facilitate Québec citizens' access to adequate housing conditions, taking into account their financial capability, the diversity of their needs and the economic and sociodemographic situation, to promote the improvement of general housing conditions in Québec, and to foster the development and recognition of Québec's expertise in housing.

As an expert tribunal exercising its jurisdiction in matters relating to housing leases, the Régie du logement's mission is to decide disputes referred to it using a procedure that is simple and compliant with natural justice rules, to inform citizens about the rights and obligations associated with a lease to avoid the emergence of conflicts solely based on a lack of knowledge of the provisions of the law, and to promote reconciliation between tenants and those who rent to them. Moreover, the Régie du logement monitors the preservation of the stock of rental units in certain situations and, in these cases, ensures the protection of tenants' rights.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The budgetary choices that have been adopted in the portfolio aim to promote the autonomy of the municipalities and the development of all Québec's regions. The state of municipal infrastructures, the vitality and competitiveness of Greater Montréal and issues of housing will also continue to be priorities for the Department.

Given these priorities, significant funding will be allocated for the support of municipal infrastructures through financing various programs for infrastructures, water supply and wastewater systems. Municipalities will receive significant resources to ensure the continuity and development of their infrastructures.

The Department will continue to support the economic and social development of greater Montreal by allocating major funding to this area. As the government has made a commitment to financially support the actuarial deficit of the retirement plans of the Ville de Montréal, a significant amount of funding will be allocated for this purpose. Support for structuring projects will also be maintained.

The Government will ensure the continuation of the fiscal pact reached with the municipalities in 2000 by injecting additional funds as planned in the agreement, while continuing to prepare to set up the next agreement with the municipalities.

As the development of Québec's regions is a priority for the Government, the Department will inject the funds set aside for the regional conferences of elected representatives (CREs). Moreover, the fulfillment of rural agreements may lead to the injection of additional funds.

To enable more low-income households to gain access to housing that meets their needs, the SHQ will support the construction of affordable social, community-based and private housing under the AccèsLogis Québec and Affordable Housing Québec programs.

The SHQ will also continue to allocate a significant portion of its budget to ensure the continuity of the supply of social housing units reserved exclusively for low-income households. It will continue to provide financial support to various low-income households so as to reduce the portion of they need to spend on housing. In particular, emergency rent supplements that were granted in past years in view of the housing shortage have been renewed for another year.

The SHQ will continue to promote improvements in the quality of housing. It will support residential renovations carried out in both urban and rural environments under the Renovation Québec and RénoVillage programs.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The budget allocated to the "Affaires municipales et des Régions" portfolio for 2005-2006 fiscal year totals \$1,776 million, representing an increase of \$107.8 million as compared to the previous fiscal year. The budgetary increase is mainly due to funds injected for the Québec Sewage Treatment Program and other amounts related to the Financial and Fiscal Pact reached with the municipalities.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure	Change	Expenditure	Probable
	Budget		Budget	Expenditure
	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
	(1)	(2)=(1)-(3)	(3)	(4)
1. Greater Montréal Promotion and Development	77,668.7	17,522.5	60,146.2	60,858.2
2. Upgrading Infrastructure and Urban Renewal	580,148.6	77,714.7	502,433.9	479,710.0
3. Compensation in lieu of Taxes and Financial Assistance to Municipalities	681,737.5	16,485.3	665,252.2	657,369.2
4. General Administration	48,937.7	(1,409.5)	50,347.2	51,057.3
5. Regional Development and Rurality	52,800.4	4,513.0	48,287.4	48,287.4
6. Commission municipale du Québec	2,999.4	(87.2)	3,086.6	2,979.4
7. Housing	317,520.1	(6,402.1)	323,922.2	324,378.6
8. Régie du logement	14,170.7	(489.0)	14,659.7	14,449.2
Total	1,775,983.1	107,847.7	1,668,135.4	1,639,089.3
Staff Level (FTEs)	768	(7)	775	—
(excluding special funds)				

Program 1: Greater Montréal Promotion and Development

This program seeks to promote and support the economic, cultural and social development of greater Montréal in order to foster its progress, vitality and the broadening of its influence. Furthermore, it is intended to provide financial support for the realization of initiatives designed to further the development and promotion of the greater Montréal area while acting as a catalyst and rallying point for the promotion of its interests. It facilitates concerted action between numerous private and public sector partners in the area, notably concerning urban planning, monitors the consistency of government initiatives for this territory, and assumes responsibility for government policy concerning local and regional governance.

This program's budget shows an increase of \$17.5 million, which is mainly due to funds allocated for the deficit of the City of Montréal's employee retirement plans and the need for additional funds to repay the loans of the Société de gestion Marie-Victorin.

Program 2: Upgrading Infrastructure and Urban Renewal

This program procures financing to facilitate the construction of water supply and wastewater systems and municipal wastewater purification in all regions of Québec. Moreover, it allows for the provision of financial support to rebuild infrastructure in municipalities, urban communities and northern communities, particularly by the Infrastructures and Urban Renewal and Town Renewal programs.

The expenditure budget allocated to municipal infrastructures represents a net increase of \$77.7 million. This increase is mainly due to the funds required for the Government to maintain its commitments with regard to water purification.

Program 3: Compensation in lieu of Taxes and Financial Assistance to Municipalities

This program is intended to provide municipalities with compensation in lieu of taxes for properties of the government, the health and social services and education networks, and foreign governments. It also allows support for the voluntary amalgamation of municipalities and the granting of financial assistance to municipalities and northern communities. It supports regional county municipalities, especially from the standpoint of land use planning. This program also encompasses the financial measures of the Fiscal Pact, which is the agreement reached with the municipalities.

The funds allocated represent a net increase of \$16.5 million, which is mainly due to additional amounts set aside in the Financial and Fiscal Pact reached with the municipalities in 2000 regarding the "Hausse des compensations tenant lieu de taxes" measure.

Program 4: General Administration

This program allocates, to the Department's management and to all of its administrative units, the resources necessary for its operations, in particular for managing various departmental programs and for formulating policy. In addition, it makes it possible to ensure representation in Québec's regions in the implementation of departmental and governmental guidelines and policies concerning municipalities and the development of all regions of Québec.

The expenditure budget for this program shows a reduction of \$1.4 million. This is due to cutbacks to remuneration and operating expenses as well as other factors.

Program 5: Regional Development and Rurality

This program provides financial support for local and regional development. It provides funding for both regional and rural development.

The budgets for this program show an increase of \$4.5 million as compared with the budget of the previous fiscal year. An additional amount of \$2.5 million is allocated to the Regional Development Fund (FDR) in order to finance the regional conferences of elected representatives (CREs) organized throughout Québec. Finally, an additional amount of \$2 million has been added to fund rural agreements.

Program 6: Commission municipale du Québec

This program is geared to act with municipalities concerning territorial organization, technical regulation, investigation, trusteeship, contract allocation and recognition of tax-exempt status. The decrease in this organization's overall budget is due to a reduction of its operating budget.

Program 7: Housing

This program aims to facilitate Québec citizens' access to adequate housing conditions, taking into account their financial capability, the diversity of their needs and the economic and sociodemographic situation, to promote the improvement of general housing conditions in Québec, and to foster the development and recognition of Québec's expertise in housing. The program includes subsidies to be granted to the SHQ and Immobilière SHQ. These agencies also receive funds from other sources for financing their activities.

This program's expenditure budget is decreasing by \$6.4 million. This reduction is offset by additional revenues expected by the SHQ. Furthermore, increases are planned for the budget relating to the construction and renovation of housing units under the AccèsLogis Québec, Affordable Housing Québec, Renovation Québec and RénoVillage programs.

Program 8: Régie du logement

By this program, the Régie du logement has the necessary resources to decide disputes between parties of residential leases, inform citizens about rights and obligations associated with a lease and to promote reconciliation between tenants and those who rent to them. Moreover, the Régie du logement looks after the preservation of the stock of rental units in certain situations and, in these cases, assures the protection of tenants' rights.

This program's budget has decreased, due to various cost-cutting measures in its operating expenses.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	6,945.0	4,460.6
Loans, Investments and Advances	10,581.5	8,394.1

Credits for capital assets refer to developments required for the support of ongoing operations as well as replacement of computer hardware, the electronic delivery of services and municipal information highway. With regard to loans, investments and advances, funds have been allocated for the temporary financing of transitional committees formed in accordance with the Act respecting the consultation of citizens with respect to the territorial reorganization of certain municipalities (2003, c. 14).

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCIES AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCY

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Budget-funded Agencies		
Commission municipale du Québec	2,999.4	3,086.6
Régie du logement	14,170.7	14,659.7
Extrabudgetary Agency		
Société d'habitation du Québec ¹	634,373.4	636,929.6

¹ The end of the Société d'habitation du Québec's fiscal year is not March 31. Data in Volume III have been adjusted based on the government's fiscal year. The financial results in Volume IV are presented based on the end of the organization's fiscal year (December 31). Revenue forecasts for the organization's 2005-2006 fiscal year are therefore \$627.6 million.

SPECIAL FUNDS**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	36,812.1	46,104.4
Expenditure	36,812.1	46,104.4
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The Regional Development Fund (FDR) provides for the financing of the operating expenses of the regional conferences of elected representatives (CREs) as well as the specific agreements and other activities prioritized by the region. The FDR consists of residual amounts either not yet paid nor committed by the CRE, as well as the 2005-2006 budget of \$30.5 million, of which \$29 million is from the Department and \$1.5 million is from the Ministère des Transports.

AGRICULTURE, PÊCHERIES ET ALIMENTATION

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ \$6-million increase in the departmental portfolio expenditure budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, or a 1% increase over the 2004-2005 fiscal year.
- ❑ Maintenance of the \$305-million funding for agricultural risk management measures under the terms of the agreement between the Financière agricole du Québec (FADQ) and the Gouvernement du Québec.
- ❑ \$11.3 million more for the Refund of Property Taxes and Compensations to Agricultural Operations Program as promised by the Government.
- ❑ \$3.5-million increase in the budget to help agricultural enterprises meet the challenges of environmental protection and harmonious cohabitation on agricultural land.
- ❑ \$8.9-million decrease in other of the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation expenditures resulting mainly from a staff level reduction and cutbacks in operating expenditures.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The mission of the Department is to influence and support the growth of the Quebec bio-food industry with a view to sustainable development.

The Department's work supports the Government's core missions in four key areas, namely:

Prosperity, as a key player in developing an economic sector found in every region;

Health, by controlling the safety of food and animal health as well as environmental protection;

Knowledge, through the educational programs offered on Institut de technologie agroalimentaire campuses and support for research, development, and technology transfers;

Québec identity, by developing agri-food know-how and land use.

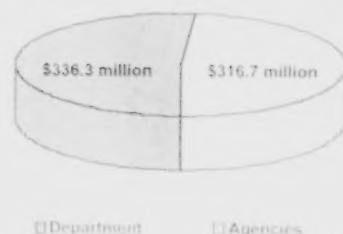
The Department devises and sees to the implementation of policies and programs necessary to the development of the agricultural and agri-food sectors, and of the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector. Its duties relate to the production, processing, distribution, marketing, and consumption of bio-food products. To carry out its manifold mission, the Department is organized into divisions for regional affairs (including the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire); agri-environment; food (including the Centre québécois d'inspection des aliments et de santé animale); economic, scientific and technological affairs; food processing (Transformation Alimentaire Québec); fisheries and commercial aquaculture; and management services.

In addition, three government agencies report directly to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. They each have their specific roles in applying the various instruments of agricultural and agri-food policy as well as the policy on the fisheries and aquaculture sector. They are the FADQ, the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec and the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec. To these agencies are added the Bureau d'accréditation des pêcheurs et des aides-pêcheurs du Québec and the Fonds d'assurance-prêts agricoles et forestiers.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The budget is divided almost equally between the Department and agencies as shown in the adjacent chart. The bulk of the agencies budget, or \$305 million, is allocated for the FADQ, which administers financial risk management programs for agricultural enterprises. This budget is being maintained under the terms of the current agreement.

Budget Allocation of the Agriculture,
Pêcheries et Alimentation Portfolio
2005-2006



1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The mission of the Department is to influence and support the growth of the Québec bio-food industry with a view to sustainable development.

The Department's work supports the Government's core missions in four key areas, namely:

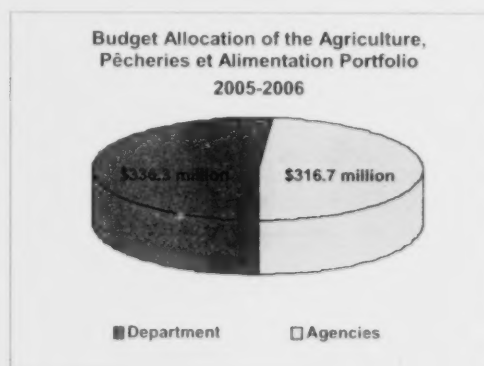
- Prosperity, as a key player in developing an economic sector found in every region;
- Health, by controlling the safety of food and animal health as well as environmental protection;
- Knowledge, through the educational programs offered on Institut de technologie agroalimentaire campuses and support for research, development, and technology transfers;
- Québec identity, by developing agri-food know-how and land use.

The Department devises and sees to the implementation of policies and programs necessary to the development of the agricultural and agri-food sectors, and of the commercial fisheries and aquaculture sector. Its duties relate to the production, processing, distribution, marketing, and consumption of bio-food products. To carry out its manifold mission, the Department is organized into divisions for regional affairs (including the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire); agri-environment; food (including the Centre québécois d'inspection des aliments et de santé animale); economic, scientific and technological affairs; food processing (Transformation Alimentaire Québec); fisheries and commercial aquaculture; and management services.

In addition, three government agencies report directly to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. They each have their specific roles in applying the various instruments of agricultural and agri-food policy as well as the policy on the fisheries and aquaculture sector. They are the FADQ, the Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec and the Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec. To these agencies are added the Bureau d'accréditation des pêcheurs et des aides-pêcheurs du Québec and the Fonds d'assurance-prêts agricoles et forestiers.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The budget is divided almost equally between the Department and agencies as shown in the adjacent chart. The bulk of the agencies budget, or \$305 million, is allocated for the FADQ, which administers financial risk management programs for agricultural enterprises. This budget is being maintained under the terms of the current agreement.



As for the Department budget, the funding for the Refund of Property Taxes and Compensations to Agricultural Operations increases by \$11.3 million to a total of \$95.5 million stemming from decisions to improve the program and inherent rising costs.

Moreover, the Department's other budgetary choices give priority to three orientations related to economic and regional development of the bio-food industry, agri-environment, and food safety. These choices focus on improving agriculture, agri-food, fisheries and aquaculture as part of a wider vision to develop a prosperous, diverse industry focused on added value, producing healthy food in an environment friendly manner, and supporting the development of Québec and its regions.

Orientation 1: To support bio-food economic development in partnership with the industry and key government and regional players

The bio-food sector is facing hard times caused by poor conditions (bovine spongiform encephalopathy crisis, lower prices for farm produce, reduced net income etc.) compounded by more of a structural problem related to changes in the business environment (free trade, tougher market conditions, heavy debt load etc.). As a priority, the Department's efforts must focus on factors that make enterprises more competitive. The sector also offers wealth-creation opportunities for ensuring the economic vitality of a number of regions, be it by creating added value with distinctive products, developing food processing in the regions, and diversifying agriculture and fisheries through market niches with potential. Government actions must also be capable of supporting promising industry initiatives. In this context, the Department plans to focus its efforts on:

- Improving access to specialized agricultural advisory services that meet specific regional needs;
- Strengthening partnerships in the field of research and development as well as technology transfers;
- Maintaining its efforts in the realm of agricultural education through the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire;
- Supporting farm succession planning;
- Putting Transformation alimentaire Québec into operation with its action plan that primarily calls for the development of niche and home-grown products;
- Continuing to support diversification and added value in the fisheries industry, including the development of aquaculture.

Orientation 2: To help agricultural and aquacultural producers meet the requirements of environmental protection and harmonious cohabitation on agricultural land

In recent years, Québécois have become increasingly aware of environmental issues and sustainable development. The Department has made environmental protection an action priority, just as industry members have. This orientation, however, should be viewed from the standpoint of sustainable development capable of ensuring commercial viability. The Department is maintaining its efforts by focusing on the following planned actions:

- Implementation of the Department's agri-environmental strategy, including pursuit of the financial efforts under the Prime-Vert Program;
- Implementation of the sustainable development for fresh water aquaculture through funding for the Aquableu project aimed at reducing fish-farm phosphorus discharges.

Orientation 3: To meet the new food safety and animal health needs by improving risk management tools

Supplying consumers with healthy food is an inevitable challenge facing the bio-food industry. Consumers have always attached a great deal of importance to food quality and safety, and their concern has intensified in recent years in response to incidents of animal diseases and serious food contamination elsewhere in the world. Yet the occurrence of mad cow disease in Canada along with avian flu, in addition to recurring episodes of *E. coli* bacterial contamination, show that Canada and Québec are not immune to these risks. To prevent crises, keep them in check, and maintain consumer confidence, the Department is continuing its efforts to improve its management tools for swift intervention together with the federal officials concerned. The actions planned for this orientation are to:

- Pursue implementation of food traceability;
- Enhance animal health risk management tools, which includes a sustained effort in the area of epidemiological surveillance.

Finally, the staff reduction and cutbacks to operating expenses will require a reallocation of resources. Therefore, the Department's actions will be refocused by emphasizing its training, information, and strategic consulting functions, while consolidating its research and technology transfer partnerships with industry stakeholders.

3. BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Bio-food Company Development, Training and Food Quality	336,316.7	5,896.8	330,419.9	343,188.7
2. Government Agencies	316,735.8	100.7	316,635.1	316,937.5
Total	653,052.5	5,997.5	647,055.0	660,126.2
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	2,155	(33)	2,188	—

In 2005-2006, the Department's expenditure budget will be \$653.1 million, or \$6 million higher than in 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Program 1: Bio-food Company Development, Training and Food Quality

The purpose of this program is to develop potential and to improve technological performance related to the production, processing and preservation of bio-food products in an environmentally sound manner. Its purpose is also to train competent people in the field of agri-food.

The \$5.9-million increase is primarily the result of an extra \$11.3 million for the Refund of Property Taxes and Compensations to Agricultural Operations Program to fulfill Government promises, and \$3.5 million more for the Prime-Vert Program. This is offset by an \$8.9-million reduction in other Departmental expenditures, mainly in the areas of compensation and operations.

Program 2: Government Agencies

The purpose of this program is to promote the profitability of agricultural operations by providing them with adequate financing, to compensate for crop yield losses and to guarantee agricultural producers an annual income under certain terms and conditions. It also promotes the effective marketing of agricultural and food products and preservation of the vocation of arable land.

This program's appropriations consist primarily of a \$305 million subsidy to the Financière agricole du Québec. This assistance is the result of an agreement concluded with the agency in which the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food agrees to pay, for and to the benefit of the Financière agricole du Québec, an amount totalling \$2,135 million over a seven-year period beginning in 2001-2002. This money constitutes the predetermined budget envelope allocated to this agency by the Québec government.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	18,564.4	20,718.4
Loans, Investments and Advances	500.0	500.0

In 2005-2006, the Department will have an expenditure budget of \$18.6 million, down \$2.2 million from the previous fiscal year. The Department is continuing to upgrade its assets, which includes modernization of the greenhouse complexes at the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire and construction of an Administrative Service Centre including a research station on Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCIES AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006 Agency Budget (\$000)	2004-2005 Agency Budget (\$000)
Budget-funded Agencies		
Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec	8,756.8	8,612.2
Régie des marchés agricoles et alimentaires du Québec	3,566.5	3,516.5
Extrabudgetary Agencies		
Bureau d'accréditation des pêcheurs et des aides-pêcheurs du Québec	210.0	200.0
Financière agricole du Québec	643,301.0	701,771.0
Fonds d'assurance-prêts agricoles et forestiers	15,648.2	15,748.9

In addition to the subsidy of the Gouvernement du Québec, the FADQ budget includes the agricultural producers' contributions and those of federal government.

CONSEIL DU TRÉSOR ET ADMINISTRATION GOUVERNEMENTALE

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ For the coming year, the efforts of the Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor will focus on the review of the human, budgetary, material and information resources management framework, the continuation of implementation of the Modernization Plan and the negotiations in the public sector.
- ❑ The Secrétariat is also seeking to increase its organizational capacity by modernizing its methods. Thus, it intends to adopt a workforce plan and review its management information systems.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The portfolio of the "Conseil du trésor et Administration gouvernementale" includes, for the purposes of this document, the activities of the Secrétariat and those of the Commission de la fonction publique. These organizations are presented separately, except in the budget plan where they are combined, in keeping with the budget structure approved by the Conseil du trésor for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

SECRÉTARIAT DU CONSEIL DU TRÉSOR

The Secrétariat assists the Conseil du trésor and its Chair in their governance functions. It advises them in matters of management of resources and modernization of the State. Concerning its central agency role, the Secrétariat provides orientations to the departments and agencies on issues relating to the management of human, budgetary, material and information resources. The Secrétariat supports the Conseil du trésor and its Chair in order to:

- Prepare annual forecast expenditure budgets for the departments and agencies before the beginning of each fiscal year;
- Make appropriate decisions on the management of resources and the administrative organization of the State;
- Assist the government in its role as employer of public service personnel, regulator and coordinator of negotiations in the public and parapublic sectors;
- Make recommendations to the government on the requests and projects presented by the departments and agencies.

The Secrétariat also offers certain services to individuals and businesses. Thus, it provides information relating to the recruiting, ways of doing business with the government, and government management policies.

COMMISSION DE LA FONCTION PUBLIQUE

The mission of the Commission de la fonction publique is to contribute, on behalf of the Québec National Assembly, to guarantee equal access by all citizens to the public service, the competence of the persons recruited and promoted as well as the impartiality and fairness of the decisions made in matters of human resources management, by acting as an administrative tribunal and auditor.

By exercising its mission, the Commission contributes to the preservation of the fundamental principles of neutrality and equal access, specifically with respect to the optimal contribution of the various groups that make up Québec society, as well as the maintenance of ethical behaviour in human resource management. Indeed, by its actions, the Commission ensures that the decisions made by the managers in matters of human resources management are not only based on the law, but value ethical behaviour by employees or managers in the performance of their duties.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

SECRÉTARIAT DU CONSEIL DU TRÉSOR

For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Secrétariat's priorities are to support the Chair of the Conseil du trésor in the performance of the mandate of modernization of the State, management of the expenditure budget, management of the workforce, negotiations in the public sector and optimization of relations between the State and the private sector.

The Secrétariat has made budget choices based on government priorities. For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Secrétariat has given preference in its budgetary choices to the Government Human Resources Management Plan. This plan includes a series of initiatives designed, in particular, to promote the mobility of the workforce and ensure that it is representative.

The details of the variations in the different components of the Secrétariat's budget are presented in the section on the budget plan.

Orientation 1: Ensure rigorous management of expenditures and staff levels

Actions envisioned:

- Oversee the budget allocations to the departments and agencies;
- Ensure follow-up of the plan to reduce the size of government;
- Develop a new subsidy management framework, in consultation with the departments concerned, which particularly incorporates regular evaluation of all transfer programs.

Orientation 2: Ensure implementation of the human resources management plan

Actions envisioned:

- Develop and implement a workforce plan and a competency development strategy;
- Develop and implement a succession preparation strategy;
- Establish an approach to implement a culture of recognition;
- Propose the updating of the legislative framework and the implementation strategy.

Orientation 3: Modernize the framework of relations between the State and the private sector

Action envisioned:

- Review the ground rules established with the private sector, in conjunction with its partners in this field, in order to standardize and simplify these rules.

Orientation 4: Review the structures with a view to simplify and refocus them

Action envisioned:

- Study the targeted government agencies and recommend the relevance of maintaining or not maintaining their existence, as the case may be.

Orientation 5: Upgrade the results-oriented management approach

Action envisioned:

- Report to the Government on the implementation of the Public Administration Act and the advisability of amending it, if applicable.

Orientation 6: Review methods to meet government priorities

Actions envisioned:

- Provide the Secrétariat with a workforce plan allowing redeployment of its employees where new needs exist, while ensuring the renewal and representativeness of its workforce;
- Review methods in order to simplify the business processes, particularly in the areas of financial and material resources.

COMMISSION DE LA FONCTION PUBLIQUE

The Commission de la fonction publique gives priority, in the allocation of its resources, to the quality of client services and the evaluation of the impact of the changes in the management framework in relation to the basic principles of human resources management.

Remuneration accounts for 86% of the Commission's forecast expenditures, and nearly 90% of its human resources are allocated to operations. From year to year, the Commission has maintained its choice of allocating as few resources as possible to its management, while maintaining a degree of autonomy compatible with its special responsibilities as an administrative tribunal and oversight agency.

3. BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor	119,215.2	2,726.4	116,488.8	127,934.2
2. Commission de la fonction publique	3,376.2	(23.9)	3,400.1	3,304.9
3. Retirement and Insurance Plans	304,377.9	458.2	303,919.7	303,919.7
4. Contingency Fund	381,001.9	281,968.2	99,033.7	—
Total	807,971.2	285,128.9	522,842.3	435,158.8
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	661	(15)	676	—

Note: The Contingency Fund program includes a provision which allows for transfers to other government programs where probable expenditure is increased by as much. For this program, probable expenditure is reduced because of such transfers.

Program 1: Secrétariat du Conseil du trésor

This program includes the expenditures intended to support the Conseil du trésor in its advisory role to the Government on the management of the human, financial, material and information resources of the Québec public service. It also includes the expenditures related to the government functions performed by the Secrétariat in matters of staffing and recruitment. This program provides the financing for reconstruction programs for disaster areas following the ice storm of January 1998 and the flood of July 1996, as well as contributions by the government in its role as employer. This program also includes a provision for transferring between programs or portfolios any part of an appropriation corresponding to the agreed-upon exchange value when responsibility for goods is transferred between departments and agencies.

From 2004-2005 to 2005-2006, this program's expenditure budget has increased by \$2.7 million to \$119.2 million. This rise is mainly attributable to an additional amount of \$5 million allocated for the Government Human Resources Management Plan which has the purpose, in particular, of promoting the mobility of the workforce and ensuring that it is representative. On the other hand, the amounts allocated to the funds dedicated to disasters and employ contributions have diminished.

Program 2: Commission de la fonction publique

This program includes the expenditures of the Commission, which has the primary mandate to contribute, on behalf of the Québec National Assembly, to guarantee equal access by all citizens to the public service, competence of the persons appointed and promoted and impartiality and fairness of the decisions made in matters of human resources management. For this purpose, the Commission hears the recourses exercised in certain matters by members and executives of agencies and by public servants, verifies the impartiality and fairness of the decisions affecting them, enforces the laws and regulations relating to the recruiting and promotion system, rules on applications for certification of means of evaluation, produces studies, reports and formulates recommendations to the authorities and advises the Conseil du trésor when the decides to exempt a job or a job class from the provisions of the Public Service Act (R.S.Q., c. F-3.1.1).

The Commission's budget is established at a level comparable to that of the previous year.

Program 3: Retirement and Insurance plans

The purpose of this program is to provide the government's contribution to the pension plans of judges, employees of departments and budget-funded agencies and group life insurance for public and parapublic sector employees. The expenditures related to the pension plans for the employees of the education and health and social services networks are found in the budgets of the departments concerned. In addition, the Pension Plan of Members of the National Assembly is included in the National Assembly expenditure budget.

This program includes expenditures of \$300 million for the different pension plans of judges and employees of government departments and budget-funded agencies, and \$4.4 million for group life insurance for public and parapublic sector employees.

The \$0.5 million increase in relation to 2004-2005 is explained exclusively by the pension plans. This small increase is attributable to the anticipated reduction of public service staff levels.

Program 4: Contingency Fund

The purpose of this program is to fund additional expenditures incurred by any government program. The total expenditures allocated to this program in 2005-2006 amount to \$381 million.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	768.0	768.0
Loans, Investments and Advances	375,100.0	366,413.1

The Secrétariat's capital budget is mainly composed of a provision of \$375.1 million for the "Loans, Investments and Advances" supercategory under Program 4 Contingency Fund. The purpose of this provision is to fund the temporary cash requirements of the departments and agencies, provided that the amounts so added are reimbursed from their appropriations envelope before the end of the fiscal year. This provision therefore has no effect on the expenditure forecast.

EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCY

	2005-2006 Agency Budget (\$000)	2004-2005 Agency Budget (\$000)
Agence des partenariats public-privé du Québec	1,500.0	—

SPECIAL FUNDS**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND OF THE CONSEIL DU TRÉSOR**

	Forecast 2005-2006 (\$000)	Probable 2004-2005 (\$000)
Revenue	1,443.0	1,353.7
Expenditure	1,443.0	1,353.7
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	4,929.0	1,439.2
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The purpose of the forecast investments is to maintain the network and office automation infrastructure. Additional efforts will be allocated to the development of information systems and management tools. Investment in backup of certain existing systems is also forecast. The Fund's revenues are forecast in Program 1 of the "Conseil du trésor et Administration gouvernementale" portfolio.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FUND FOR CERTAIN AREAS AFFECTED BY THE TORRENTIAL RAINS

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	3,280.0	2,509.5
Expenditure	3,280.0	2,509.5
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	32,060.0	6,302.0
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

This Fund is allocated to cover exceptional expenditures of a government department or agency as the result of damage caused by torrential rains in July 1996, mainly in the Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean region. The Fund is also used to finance the reconstruction and economic recovery program in these regions.

One of the Fund's objectives is to centralize all of the costs relating to the disaster, thereby supporting the production of requests for advances and claims that the Ministère de la Sécurité publique submits to the Government of Canada for the portion of costs that the federal government covers under its assistance program, which provides for reimbursement of up to 90% of eligible expenses.

As far as the forecast expenditures for 2005-2006 are concerned, the Government of Canada's contribution is estimated at \$0.3 million (\$0.6 million in 2004-2005) while the other expenditures, i.e. \$3 million (\$1.9 million in 2004-2005), are charged to the appropriations recorded, under Program 1 of the "Conseil du trésor et Administration gouvernementale" portfolio. Those expenditures consist primarily of financial expenses charged to the Fund. The amount shown as investment, i.e. \$32 million (\$6.3 million in 2004-2005), pertains to completion of the infrastructure intended to regulate the rise in water levels in the Lac Kenogami watershed and to the first phase of the introduction of the improved forecast management system.

Since the 1996-1997 fiscal year, the expenditures charged to this Fund have amounted to \$491.6 million. The share assumed by the Gouvernement du Québec is \$143.9 million, while the Government of Canada's share is \$347.7 million.

FUND IN RESPECT OF THE ICE STORM

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	27,300.0	25,999.0
Expenditure	27,300.0	25,999.0
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The Fund in respect of the Ice Storm is used to centralize all the information relating to that disaster, which occurred from January 5 through 9, 1998, primarily affecting the areas of Montérégie and Montréal. It also supports the production of requests for advances and claims for reimbursement that the Ministère de la Sécurité publique presents to the federal government for the portion of those costs that it assumes under its disaster assistance program, which provides for reimbursement of up to 90% of eligible expenditures.

The expenditures that are reimbursed by the federal government are recorded separately in a defined-purpose account. Amounts received and receivable from the Government of Canada in connection with the ice storm are deposited to that account.

For the Gouvernement du Québec portion, the budget allocation comes in part from the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, namely \$24.4 million per year up to and including the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The purpose of this allocation is to meet the Government of Québec commitment to pay annual compensation to Hydro-Québec for restoration of the power network. The amounts relating to other expenditures charged to the Fund, i.e. \$2.9 million for 2005-2006 and \$1.6 million for 2004-2005, are recorded under Program 1 of the "Conseil du trésor et Administration gouvernementale" portfolio. Those expenditures consist primarily of financial expenses charged to the Fund.

Since the 1997-1998 fiscal year, the expenditures charged to this Fund have amounted to \$1,139.2 million. Of that amount, \$547.4 million represents the portion assumed by the Gouvernement du Québec and the remainder, i.e. \$591.8 million, has been assumed by the Government of Canada.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ In 2005-2006, the Ministère du Conseil exécutif will continue updating the Government's priorities, ensure their consistency with policy and monitor their implementation. In particular, it will make certain that the public receives quality services in line with what people need and can afford to pay. Lastly, it will coordinate Government communication about its priorities.
- ❑ In keeping with the chosen orientations, the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones will continue coordinating government action and funding projects aimed at the development of Native communities.

Fulfilling a promise made during the Forum des générations, the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones, in cooperation with the Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador, will organize a forum on the social and economic development of Aboriginal nations.

- ❑ The new Youth Initiative Strategy now in the works will be tabled and implemented in 2005. It will primarily be built around measures designed for all youth and especially those in difficulty.

Online launch of the Portail jeunesse in 2005 will give young people easy dynamic access to information about the Government programs and services for them on at the local, regional and provincial level.

- ❑ As part of the general plan to reform democratic institutions announced in the Premier's June 2003 inaugural address, in 2004 the Minister for the Reform of Democratic Institutions unveiled proposals for parliamentary reform and a draft bill to replace the Election Act (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3) that aims to encourage the exercise of voting rights and change the voting procedure. The draft bill will be the subject of parliamentary committee hearings in 2005, followed by tabling of the bill.

- Furthermore, in 2005-2006 the National Assembly is expected to pass Bill 86, An Act to amend the Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and on the protection of personal information and other legislative provisions and, in that case, the Government is expected to approve policies on the systematic distribution of information and protection of personal information.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Department's mission is to:

- Support development of the Government's vision as well as the consistency and effectiveness of its actions;
- Bear responsibility for youth, Canadian intergovernmental affairs, francophones within Canada, Aboriginal affairs, the reform of democratic institutions, access to information and the protection of personal information;
- The Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes advises the Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Agreement on Internal Trade, the Reform of Democratic Institution and Access to Information with the portfolio's mission of ensuring respect for Québec's constitutional powers, the integrity of its institutions, protection and promotion of its interests in dealings with the federal and other provincial/territorial governments, as well as strengthening French-speaking Canada;
- The mission of the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones is to assist the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs with coordinating Government action on Native matters and the establishment of harmonious relations and a tripartite partnership of the Government, Native peoples, and the general public;
- The Secrétariat à la jeunesse, a responsibility of the Premier, coordinates and ensures that all Government actions related to youth are consistent and complementary. It also consults and supports leading youth groups in an effort to encourage young people to participate actively in Québec society;
- The Secrétariat à la réforme des institutions démocratiques et à l'accès à l'information pursues a mission of supporting the Minister's efforts, first of all, to develop and implement Government decisions on reforming the procedures of democratic institutions and, secondly, with the portfolio's responsibilities with regards to exercising the right of access to information and the protection of personal information.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

Conseil exécutif support and advice for consistency and efficient coordination of Government actions

Shared vision and priorities

Funding in the amount of \$12 million is earmarked to support decision-making by government bodies. In this respect, the Department will provide studies, advice and coordination. It will also update Government priorities and monitor their deployment.

Objectives	Ensure that policies are consistent with the Government's mission and priorities;
	Foster effective implementation of the priorities and issues the Government considers strategic;
	Ensure that policies, programs and services are in line with what the public needs and can afford to pay.
Actions envisioned:	Adapt and update Government priorities;
	Sustain the efforts of departmental coordinating committees and effectively monitor the implementation of Government priorities;
	Encourage senior officials to contribute to pursuit of the Government's priorities and support their role in introducing sound management based primarily on the values of ethics and integrity;
	Participate in implementing the plan to modernize the State;
	✓ Sustain initiatives for dialogue and discussion that enable people to communicate directly with Government representatives;
	Coordinate government communications.

Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs

Protection and promotion of Québec's interests

A budget of \$8.4 million will be allocated for promoting Québec's interests and respect for its powers within the Canadian federation.

Objectives	Foster harmonious relations between the two levels of government in Canada, as well as evolution of the Canadian federation towards a federal system open to asymmetry and favourable towards provincial autonomy and the flourishing of unique identities;
	Together with the departments concerned, work out Québec's position on federal and provincial/territorial actions that affect its constitutional autonomy in particular, and the smooth operation of Canadian federalism in general.

Actions envisioned: Step up negotiations between Québec and Ottawa on sectoral issues;

Work out Québec's position on federal and provincial/territorial actions with an intergovernmental impact.

French-speaking Canada

The amount of \$2.4 million is budgeted for strengthening Canadian Francophonie.

Objectives Encourage Québec and other French-speaking Canadians and Acadians to get to know each other better;

Assert the importance of Canadian Francophonie population to the country's provincial and territorial governments, and persuade them to further its development together with the Québec Government and Quebecers.

Actions envisioned: Review Québec's policy on Canada's French-speaking and Acadian communities;

Incorporate the Francophone affairs dimension into every cooperative agreement.

Native Affairs

Fulfilment and continuity of financial commitments to Aboriginals

A \$125.7-million budget will be allocated for pursuing the Government's coordinated efforts towards Native socioeconomic development.

Objective: Support the development of First Nations and their communities.

Actions envisioned: Organize a forum on the socioeconomic development of First Nations;

Ensure fulfilment of the commitments made in development agreements with First Nations.

Native partnerships and initiatives

The amount of \$23.3 million is allocated for funding Native partnerships and initiatives.

Objective: Help build strong, fully developed Native communities within Québec society.

Actions envisioned: Fulfill the obligations undertaken with respect to the Aboriginal Development Fund;

Support projects that further the socioeconomic development of First Nations with respect for their identities, rights and characteristics.

Youth

Youth Action Strategy

A new Youth Action Strategy presently under development will be tabled and implemented during the year. A defined-purpose account in the amount of \$35 million will primarily be used to fund it. This strategy aims to foster academic success, help young people find jobs and encourage development of the right skills, combat suicide and give youth a stronger position in Québec and the world.

Objectives Ensure adoption and implementation of the Youth Action Strategy;
Improve interdepartmental coordination on youth issues.

Actions envisioned: Jointly with the interdepartmental committee responsible for developing the Youth Action Strategy, develop the strategic components;

In cooperation with the departments concerned, ensure more service continuity. This means:

- cutting the red tape involved in youth access to a service;
- making some services accessible or more accessible to youth. This involves eliminating or reducing as periods of uncertainty and administrative timeframes as much as possible;
- easing the transition of young people from one program or service to another;
- making certain measures or programs more complementary.

Défi de l'entrepreneuriat jeunesse

The Secrétariat à la jeunesse will allocate \$0.4 million for Year 2 of the three-year action plan announced in February 2004. Also, a \$10.9-million defined-purpose account will be used to top up the sources of funds for the Défi de l'entrepreneuriat jeunesse.

Objective: Foster development of a genuine entrepreneurial culture among Québec youth and promote its values.

Actions envisioned:	Coordinate implementation and deployment of the activities and measures of the second year of the action plan in association with the various Défi de l'entrepreneuriat jeunesse partners and Québec entrepreneurship network, primarily by developing teaching materials, supporting extracurricular activities, organizing training workshops for young entrepreneurs, and organizing a network of entrepreneurship champions; Publicize the measures in the action plan and promote the Government's strategy.
----------------------------	---

Portail jeunesse

The Secrétariat à la jeunesse will spend \$0.8 million in 2005-2006 on the online launch and further development of the Portail jeunesse for youth. The Portail jeunesse will provide easy and dynamic access to information on government youth programs and services available locally, regionally and nationally.

Objective:	Provide an electronic reference and information service to Québec youth.
Actions envisioned:	Launch the Portail jeunesse online in 2005; Promote the Portail jeunesse to the targeted clientele; Ensure further development of the Portail jeunesse in collaboration with the Bureau pour le développement du gouvernement électronique, the departments concerned and the main networks of Québec youth agencies.

Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information

Reform of Democratic Institutions

A budget of \$0.9 million is earmarked to support implementation of the Government's efforts to reform democratic institutions.

Objective:	Improve voting procedures and favour the exercise of the right to vote and support parliamentary reform.
Action envisioned:	Following public hearings, submit a bill to replace the existing <i>Election Act</i> (R.S.Q., c. E-3.3) to the Government and National Assembly in 2005-2006.

Commission d'accès à l'information

A \$4.2-million budget has been allocated for the Commission to carry out its various responsibilities.

Objective:	Fulfill its mission efficiently and diligently, particularly as regards requests for adjudication or supervisory and control activities related to access to documents and protection of the personal information held not only by public bodies but also private enterprise.
-------------------	---

Action envisioned:	Within the framework of the laws it enforces, approve agreements on the exchange of personal information signed by public bodies, serve notice of bills of law, regulations and other government projects with an impact on access to documents or the protection of personal information, process requests for access to documents held by public bodies that it receives as well as those made as recourse pursuant to the Act respecting the protection of personal information in the private sector (R.S.Q., c. P-39.1). The Commission d'accès à l'information also conducts audits or investigations to ensure compliance with the legislation it is required to enforce.
---------------------------	--

Access to information and the protection of personal information

Approximately \$0.6 million will go towards helping departments and agencies apply the Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information (R.S.Q., c. A-2.1) and overseeing other related legislation.

Objective:	Help departments and agencies apply the law.
-------------------	--

Action envisioned:	Get the National Assembly to pass the Act to amend the Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information and other legislative provisions (Bill 86) in 2005-2006 and, in such event, obtain Government approval of policies on the dissemination of information and protection of personal information.
---------------------------	---

3. BUDGET PLAN

The 2005-2006 expenditure budget amounts to \$250.8 million, or \$18.7 million less than 2004-2005 fiscal year.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Lieutenant-Governor's Office	857.5	—	857.5	1,017.5
2. Support Services for the Premier and the Conseil exécutif	68,364.0	(1,886.4)	70,250.4	39,910.9
3. Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs	11,696.6	(1,265.6)	12,962.2	12,058.9
4. Native Affairs	153,901.7	(3,821.6)	157,723.3	140,272.8
5. Youth	10,247.9	(11,604.5)	21,852.4	20,320.0
6. Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information	5,684.5	(145.7)	5,830.2	5,621.4
Total	250,752.2	(18,723.8)	269,476.0	219,201.5
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	495	(4)	499	—

Note: The program Support Services for the Premier and the Conseil exécutif has a provision that allows the transfer of funds to other government programs for which the probable expenditures are correspondingly increased. Probable expenditure in this program is decreased due to such transfers.

Program 1: Lieutenant-Governor's Office

This program enables the Lieutenant-Governor to fulfill the administrative and representation duties associated with the position.

Program 2: Support Services for the Premier and the Conseil exécutif

The purpose of this program is to provide the Premier and the Conseil exécutif with advisory services and support, and ensure the smooth running of the activities essential to the meetings of the Conseil des ministres. This program consists of the following elements:

- Office of the Premier;
- Secrétariat général and Greffe of the Conseil exécutif;

- Direction générale de l'administration;
- Indemnities for the Executive;
- Secrétariat à la communication gouvernementale;
- Provision to increase, with the approval of the Conseil du trésor, any appropriation for the realization of government communication projects.

The program envelope has decreased by \$1.9 million compared to that of 2004-2005. This change is due to the application of operating expenditure reductions.

Program 3: Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs

This program ensures coordination of the Gouvernement du Québec's relations with the federal government and the governments of other Canadian provinces and territories. It consists of the following elements:

- Office of Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Agreement on Internal Trade, the Reform of Democratic Institution and Access to Information;
- Secrétariat aux affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes;
- Representation of Québec in Canada;
- Intergovernmental and Francophone Co-operation.

The \$1.3-million reduction in the 2005-2006 expenditure budget compared to 2004-2005 is the result of cutbacks in operating expenses.

Program 4: Native Affairs

This program ensures the establishment and maintenance of harmonious relations with the Native nations and communities, and fosters their development within Québec society.

The net reduction of \$3.8 million in the 2005-2006 expenditure budget, compared to 2004-2005, primarily stems from cutbacks in operating expenses, an addition for indexing the cost of some agreements with Aboriginals, and a technical adjustment made to the envelope earmarked for the Oujé-Bougoumou land transfer.

Program 5: Youth

The purpose of this program is to coordinate government action on youth and provide support services to the Premier, who assumes direct responsibility for youth dossiers. The program consists of the following elements:

- Secrétariat à la jeunesse;
- Conseil permanent de la jeunesse.

The \$11.6-million reduction in the 2005-2006 expenditure budget compared to 2004-2005 essentially stems from the completion of the 2002-2005 Youth Action Plan. A new Youth Action Strategy presently in the works will be tabled during the 2005-2006 fiscal year. A \$35-million defined-purpose account will primarily be used to fund it.

Program 6: Reform of Democratic Institutions and Access to Information

This program aims to support efforts of the Minister for Canadian Intergovernmental Affairs, Francophones within Canada, the Agreement on Internal Trade, the Reform of Democratic Institution and Access to Information in developing and implementing government projects to reform democratic institutions and exercise access-to-information and protection-of-personal-information rights. It consists of the following elements:

- Secrétariat à la réforme des institutions démocratiques;
- Commission d'accès à l'information;
- Support for Acces to Information and Protection of Personal Information.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	877.6	877.6
Loans, Investments and Advances	106.5	106.5

The Department's capital budget amounts to \$1.0 million. It includes the budget anticipated for the acquisition of information technology equipment necessary for current operations.

SPECIAL FUNDS

QUÉBEC YOUTH FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006 (\$000)	Probable 2004-2005 (\$000)
Revenue	—	13,402.2
Expenditure	—	13,866.7
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	(464.5)
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The Québec Youth Fund is committed to support initiatives for the social, community, cultural and professional integration of Québec youth. The Fund's activities were completed on December 31, 2004.

CULTURE ET COMMUNICATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ Development and implementation of measures to increase private investment and diversify sources of funding for culture.
- ❑ Development of a public-private partnership for the creation of a permanent resident at the Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique de Montréal and a concert hall of international calibre at the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal.
- ❑ Opening of the circulation building for the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec (BNQ), thus providing greater access to Québec's documentary heritage, culture and knowledge.
- ❑ Implementation of the following modernization measures: redesign of the services offered and the processes for granting financial assistance, amalgamation of the Archives nationales du Québec and the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, creation of a Bureau national des musées and regional service centres and review of Télé-Québec's service offer and business processes.
- ❑ Continuation of efforts to adopt an international agreement to protect diversity in cultural content and artistic expression.
- ❑ Continued promotion of the French language, which is at the heart of the government's priorities.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The mission of the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications, which is supported by agencies and government corporations reporting to the Minister, is to encourage the affirmation, expression and democratization of culture and the development of communications in Québec, and to promote them at an international level. The Department's objective is to stimulate, in cooperation with agencies and government corporations reporting to the Minister, the vitality of Québec's culture, arts and citizens, all of which are at the heart of our identity.

The Department's action is directed at the public as a whole, as well as at the groups and individuals whose activity takes place in one of the phases in the production process in culture and communications.

In matters of culture, the Department, agencies and government corporations act in the following areas: museology, archive administration and heritage, the arts (music, song, dance, theatre, visual arts, circus arts, multidisciplinary arts and media arts), literature, libraries, cultural industries (film, television production, recording, variety shows, arts and crafts, publishing), architecture and cultural recreation. For communications, the Department, agencies and government corporations exercise their duties in the following sectors: the media (print media, radio, television, advertising), audiovisual, telecommunications, television broadcasting, multimedia and communications.

CHARTER OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

The French language is at the heart of Québec's identity.

The Minister of Culture and Communications is responsible for the Charter of the French Language. She is assisted in this by the Secrétariat à la politique linguistique and by three agencies: the Office québécois de la langue française, the Conseil supérieur de la langue française and the Commission de toponymie.

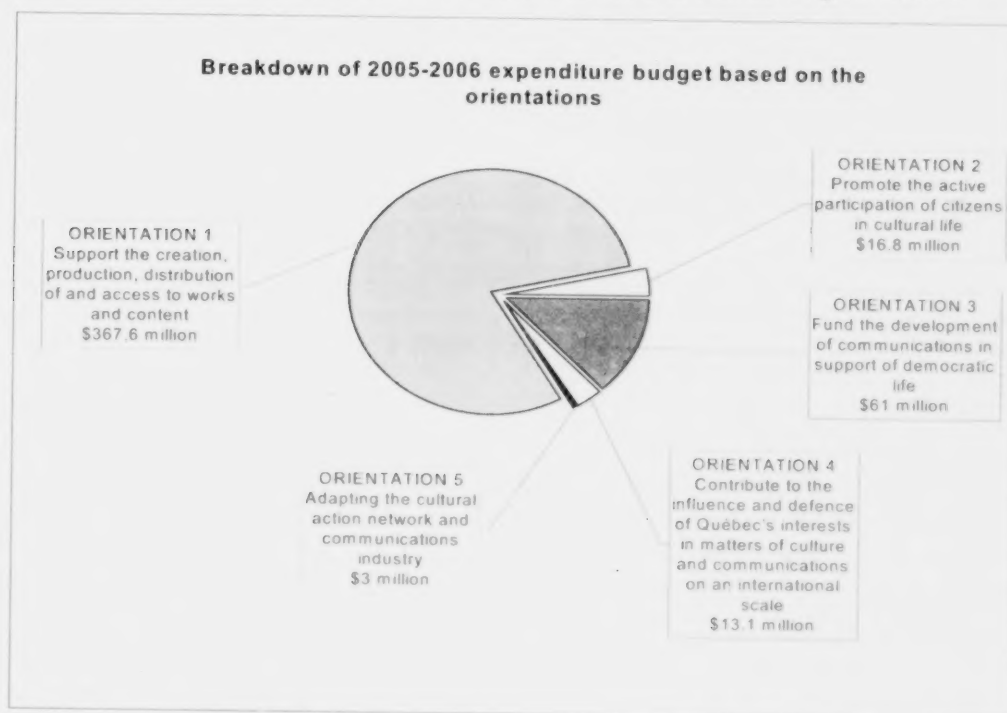
2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

Culture and Communications

The Department's first means of intervention is related to the orientations and legislative and regulatory activities inherent to its mission. Another means of intervention involves developing and sustaining effective inter-departmental and inter-governmental co-operation.

The Department also plays a major role in planning and property development in the culture and communications sector. The Department also places great focus on developing partnerships (municipalities, regional county municipalities and the education sector).

The orientations that structure the Department's actions are presented in the diagram below¹.



In other respects, the management of several financial assistance programs is entrusted to government corporations, which must administer them in compliance with the orientations provided to them by the Minister each year. Significant funds from the departmental portfolio are thus allocated to government corporations. Consequently, the main objectives and actions concerning government corporations are not included in this plan, seeing as these are the responsibility of the corporations themselves.

Orientation 1: Support the creation, production, distribution of and access to works and content

In total, the Department will allocate \$367.6 million to this orientation in 2005-2006. Within this orientation, substantial funds are allocated to government corporations:

- \$61.9 million of the \$66.8 million is allocated to the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec in the form of transfer credits;
- \$40.3 million of the \$43.9 million is allocated to the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles in the form of transfer credits;
- \$15.5 million is allocated to the Société de la Place des Arts de Montréal, and \$3.8 million to the Société du Grand Théâtre de Québec;
- \$45.5 million is allocated to the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec;

¹ Budgetary allocations based on orientations do not include the operating costs of the Department, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles, the Commission des biens culturels du Québec and the Commission de reconnaissance des associations d'artistes et des associations de producteurs.

- \$20.9 million is allocated to the Musée de la civilisation, \$13.4 million to the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec and \$8.5 million to the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal.

The main objectives and actions envisioned by the Department for 2005-2006 are the following:

Objectives	Actions envisioned
Promote accessibility and use of public libraries, and improve the quality of services offered by these facilities.	— Pool and network resources between libraries; — Develop independent public library collections.
Make cinematograph culture as widely available as possible, and preserve Québec's motion picture and audiovisual collections.	— Increase the number of short and feature-length films shown in underground cinemas; — Institute copyright deposit as a tool for preserving cinematograph collections.
Improve Quebecers' knowledge of and protect the wealth of our collective heritage.	— Take inventory of Québec's collections at places of worship, sites of protected cultural property and boroughs.
Maintain attendance at museum institutions funded by the Department and improve partnerships between museums.	— Create a Bureau national des musées; — In two pilot regions, introduce regional service centres for private museum institutions.
Improve the quality of training in the arts (professional and specialized) and increase access to such training in all regions of Québec.	— Support specialized and professional training organizations that complement the educational system; — Support improvements in the quality of professional and specialized training; — Train qualified graduates in music and dramatic arts and take action to ensure that the degrees of students of the Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique are recognized internationally.

In addition to these actions with respect to the budget, the Department will reflect on ways to update the Cinema Act (R.S.Q., c. C-18.1).

Orientation 2: Promote the active participation of citizens in cultural life

The Department's action is intended to foster active participation by the public throughout Québec in all phases of the cultural chain. The orientation requires investments estimated at \$16.8 million in 2005-2006.

Objectives	Actions envisioned
Increase the number of students in pre-school and primary and secondary public and private schools who have participated in artistic and cultural activities.	— Support the implementation of cultural activities and the realization of regional projects, especially through the Culture in Schools and Culture in Education Partnerships programs.
Maintain the proportion of the population currently reached, through a partnership agreement.	— Maintain the number of agreements within the Québec territory.
Strengthen the cultural influence of Québec City as the national capital and that of Montréal as the centre of Québec's cultural activity.	— Review targets and programs regarding access to culture.
Render a greater number of cultural activities available to citizens.	— Obtain financial equity between national cultural recreation agencies funded by the Department and national recreation agencies funded by the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport.

With a view to increasing public participation and use, the Department plans to adopt an integrated vision of the range of artistic and cultural training, and this with respect to both cultural recreational activities and preparatory and vocational training.

Orientation 3: Fund the development of communications in support of democratic life

The development of communications in support of democratic life will notably be achieved through dissemination of a variety of local and regional information throughout the Québec territory. In 2005-2006, the Department plans to invest \$61 million in actions that fall under this orientation. A large portion of this amount (\$57.6 million) is allocated to Télé-Québec, which must use it in accordance with the orientations to be transmitted by the Minister following the tabling of the Rapport du groupe de travail chargé de l'examen de Télé-Québec.

With respect to this orientation, the Department will pursue this objective and envisioned action in 2005-2006.

Objective	Action envisioned
Maintain the dissemination of adequate local and regional information throughout the Québec territory.	— Support community media and review the framework for government action in this regard.

Orientation 4: Contribute to the influence and defence of Québec's interests in matters of culture and communications on an international scale

The influence and development of international markets with respect to culture and communications, combined with the defense of diversity of cultural content and artistic expression, are important strategic issues for the Department. In 2005-2006, \$13.1 million will be allocated to these efforts, including \$4 million for the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles and \$4.9 million for the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

The Department will pursue this objective and the actions envisioned within this orientation in 2005-2006.

Objective	Actions envisioned
Create conditions favorable to the maintenance of acquired knowledge, and the development of markets, particularly in America.	— Participate in missions and events serving as international showcases, and carry out market development activities; — Carry out structuring projects enabling the strengthening of Québec's influence within the scope of international cooperation agreements; — Increase the number and diversity of international projects promoting culture in strategic territories; — Develop a strategy focused on exporting and increasing the scope of Québec culture, in cooperation with the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles.

In addition to these actions with respect to the budget, the Department will continue its work and interventions to support the development and adoption of an international agreement on the protection of the diversity of cultural content and artistic expression, notably with the support of the Government Secretariat for Cultural Diversity created by the Department.

Orientation 5: Adapting the cultural action network and communications industry

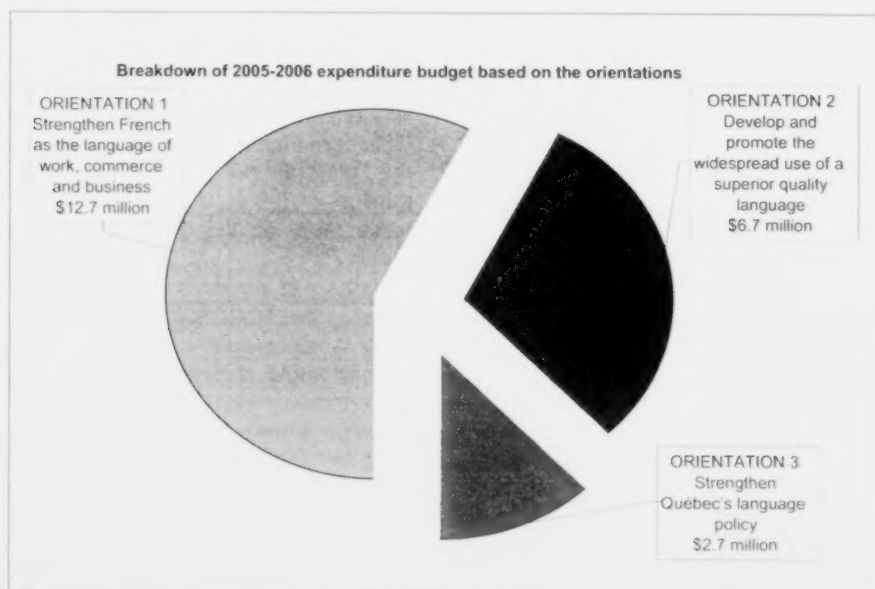
The government's main objective is to modernize its services, in order to improve their quality and render them more efficient and better adapted to the real needs of the population. To achieve this objective, the Department plans to allocate approximately \$3.0 million to actions arising from this orientation in 2005-2006.

Objectives	Actions envisioned
Continue streamlining customer service management processes.	— Develop the computer system and necessary administrative procedures to redesign and simplify the service offer.
Implement models of partnerships with local and regional authorities.	— Sign agreements, with at least two regional conferences of elected representatives, permitting a regional inquiry and an action plan.

The Department is also concerned with funding of the cultural sector. One of the Department's priorities in this regard consists of seeking innovative solutions to increase private investments in culture. Moreover, the Department will submit proposals with regard to the services and business processes of Télé-Québec.

Charter of the French Language

In 2005-2006, excluding carry-over appropriations, the \$22.1 million allocated to the Charter of the French Language is spread among three main orientations, as per the breakdown shown below.



Orientation 1: Strengthen French as the language of work, commerce and business

In 2005-2006, \$12.7 million will be allocated to this orientation, in order to pursue actions in respect of the Francisation of the workplace and to ensure adherence to the provisions of the Charter of the French Language.

Objectives	Actions envisioned
Increase Francisation of the workplaces.	— Grant Francisation certificates or Francisation program approval to at least 25% of businesses and organizations that have not yet reached these targets; — Re-examine individual agreements in effect at October 1, 2002; — Increase the number of active and compliant Francisation committees in businesses; — Provide new electronic services to businesses and the Administration.
Ensure adherence to the provisions of the Charter of the French Language, particularly in commerce and business.	— Intervene in the video games sector; — Intervene in the electric products and appliances sector; — Process complaints.

Orientation 2: Develop and promote the widespread use of a superior quality language

In 2005-2006, \$6.7 million will be allocated to actions aimed at developing and promoting the widespread use of quality French language.

Objectives	Actions envisioned
Improve the terminological and linguistic expertise made available to the population.	— Develop the Grand dictionnaire terminologique; — Develop the Banque de dépannage linguistique; — Offer terminological and linguistic assistance to the general public and certain specialized publics.
Increase public awareness of the importance of the quality of language.	— Issue table on the quality of language in the media; — Dictionary of standard French used in Québec.
Improve the toponymic expertise made available to the population.	— Develop the TOPOS databank; — Offer a toponymic information service to the general public and certain specialized publics.

Orientation 3: Strengthen Québec's language policy

In 2005-2006, \$2.7 million will be used for actions aimed at strengthening Québec's language policy.

Objectives	Actions envisioned
Ensure the consistency of Québec's language policy.	— Follow up on government actions with respect to language-related issues.
Celebrate the dynamism of the French language.	— Commemorations, prizes and awards; — Francofête 2006.
Ensure monitoring of language-related issues.	— Monitor the linguistic situation in Québec; — Carry out a study on the linguistic integration of immigrants.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The Department's expenditures for 2005-2006 are \$535.9 million, representing an increase of \$1.1 million over the budget for the previous fiscal year. This increase is mainly due to differences in the debt service, various measures aimed at reducing the Department's operating costs and adjustments to the budget of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec.

Excluding \$3.0 million in appropriations carried over from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006, the Department's expenditures for fiscal 2005-2006 will be respectively allocated, in the amounts indicated, among the following elements: \$247.6 million for assistance programs; \$211.1 million for heritage and museum institutions, and performing and audiovisual arts establishments, \$181.7 million of which is in the form of subsidies to institutions that are in fact government corporations; \$39.9 million for the Department's operating costs; \$12.2 million for the operating costs of other agencies; and, \$22.1 million for the Charter of the French Language.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Internal Management, National Institutions and Commission des biens culturels	72,110.2	(2,110.0)	74,220.2	71,557.5
2. Support for Culture, Communications and Government Corporations	440,974.1	3,228.9	437,745.2	428,445.2
3. Charter of the French Language	22,796.2	—	22,796.2	21,501.9
Total	535,880.5	1,118.9	534,761.6	521,504.6
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	1,013	(20)	1,033	—

Note: The Charter of the French Language program includes a provision that allows for transfers to other government programs where probable expenditure is correspondingly increased. Probable expenditure in this program is decreased due to such transfers.

Program 1: Internal Management, National Institutions and Commission des biens culturels

The objectives and priorities of this program are the following: to develop an overview of cultural activities and communications in Québec; to develop and manage cultural and communications policies, orientations and programs; to foster the protection and enhancement of the archival heritage; to ensure the restoration of cultural assets, as well as expertise and awareness in this area; to foster the teaching of performance arts; to provide for management support services. Moreover, through the Commission des biens culturels du Québec, to provide the expertise to foster the protection and enhancement of Québec's heritage.

The decrease of \$2.1 million is mainly due to the application of various measures aimed at reducing the salary and operating costs of the Department.

Program 2: Support for Culture, Communications and Government Corporations

The objectives and priorities of this program are the following: to ensure support for culture and communications by providing financial assistance to various stakeholders and partners, agencies, municipal institutions and enterprises; to promote and preserve Québec and international art, history and the components of society and ensure Québec's presence in international museum networks; to make major performance facilities available to artists and promoters; to foster the development of cultural and communications enterprises; to ensure recognition of artists' and producers' associations and oversee labour relations in the sectors concerned; to offer educational and cultural television programming; to support creation, development, experimentation and artistic production throughout Québec and to foster its dissemination; to provide democratic access to culture and knowledge in collaboration with libraries and Québec documentary institutions.

The variation of \$3.2 million is the result of adjustments in the budget of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec and the debt service.

Program 3: Charter of the French Language

The resources allocated to the Charter of the French Language program help to ensure the promotion and spread of quality French in all activity sectors, and the coordination and development of policies and government activities related to language issues.

CAPITAL BUDGET

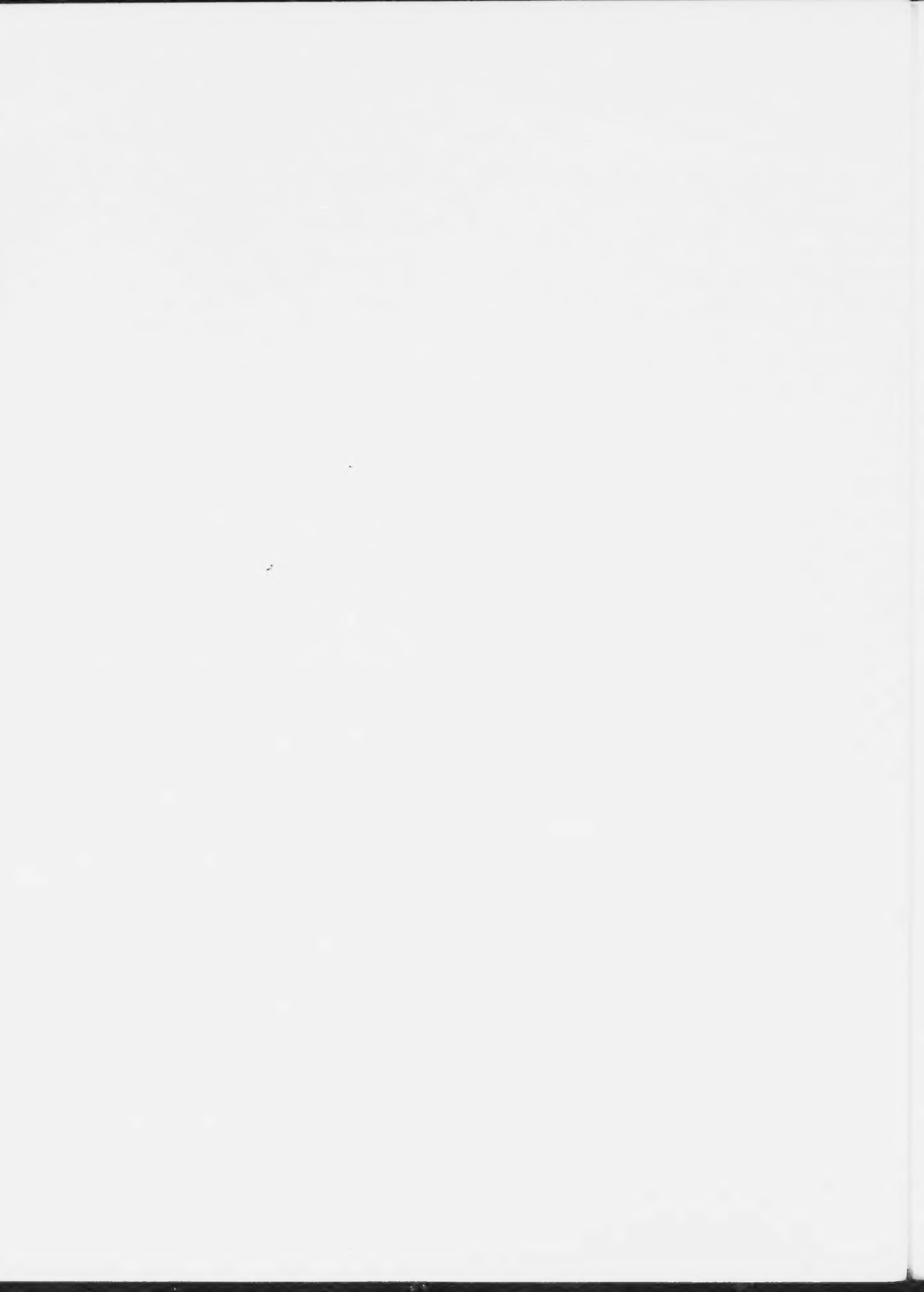
	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	6,474.3	6,474.3
Loans, Investments and Advances	1,500.0	1,500.0

The capital budget allows modernization of management support computer equipment and technological systems to continue, along with the acquisition of specialized equipment for the Archives nationales du Québec, the Centre de conservation du Québec, the Conservatoire de musique et d'art dramatique du Québec and the Charter agencies.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCIES AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency	Agency
	Budget	Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Budget-funded Agencies		
Commission des biens culturels du Québec	448.1	448.1
Commission de toponymie ¹	1,302.6	1,203.4
Conseil supérieur de la langue française	1,471.6	1,471.6
Office québécois de la langue française ¹	16,513.3	16,612.5
Extrabudgetary Agencies		
Bibliothèque nationale du Québec	59,365.3	39,765.5
Commission de reconnaissance des associations d'artistes et des associations de producteurs	678.5	613.5
Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec	72,783.5	73,564.2
Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal	9,311.0	9,838.0
Musée de la civilisation	26,816.0	26,852.2
Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec	17,783.8	18,284.7
Régie du cinéma	8,788.9	13,707.8
Société de développement des entreprises culturelles	55,863.9	60,785.3
Société de la Place des Arts de Montréal	30,042.5	31,049.3
Société de télédiffusion du Québec	72,423.5	72,984.5
Société du Grand Théâtre de Québec	9,176.5	9,249.6

¹ Excludes appropriations carried over from 2004-2005 to 2005-2006.



DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE, ENVIRONNEMENT ET PARCS

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ The 2005-2006 expenditure budget of the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'Environnement et des Parcs makes it possible to ensure the maintenance of client services and honour the government's commitments in environmental protection and promotion of sustainable development.
- ❑ Moreover, the Department's budget accounts for the transfer of responsibility for parks management to the Department and the transfer to the Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune of the administrative support services previously offered to the Société de la faune et des parcs du Québec.
- ❑ In addition, with the coming into force of the Regulation respecting compensation for municipal services provided to recover and reclaim residual materials (R.S.Q., c. Q-2, a.53.31.2, 53.31.4, 53.31.12), RECYC-QUÉBEC's revenues will grow significantly.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The "Développement durable, Environnement et Parcs" portfolio includes the Department, the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) and the Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage (RECYC-QUÉBEC). Together, they ensure protection of the environment and the natural ecosystems for the purpose of contributing to the well-being of present and future generations. They promote sustainable development with a view to assuring the population of a healthy environment, in harmony with Québec's economic development and social progress. The Department is also responsible for the administration of the Act respecting the Société des établissements de plein air du Québec (R.S.Q., c. S-13.01).

The Department particularly carries on its action in the following areas: sustainable development, protection of ecosystems and biological diversity, development of the Québec national parks network, prevention of pollution, management of public dams and the water property in the domain of the State, dam safety, drinking water quality and management of residual materials. The Department also develops knowledge of the ecosystems and maintains intergovernmental and international relations in environmental protection matters.

Regarding the agencies that report to the Minister, the BAPE informs and consults the population on matters relating to the quality of the environment in order to clarify government decision-making, while RECYC-QUÉBEC promote the reduction, recycling and reclamation of residual materials from a resource conservation perspective.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

Orientation 1: Provide the government with a sustainable development plan

The Department will present to the government a sustainable development plan, which will guide the interventions of the various government departments and agencies, so as to reconcile the environmental, social and economic components of development. The Department will propose a bill to ensure that sustainable development is taken into account in the public administration's decision-making processes. A sustainable development commissioner would be appointed, with the main task of ensuring that the principles of sustainable development and the objectives of the sustainable development strategy are integrated into the planning of the government departments and agencies. The Department will adopt a departmental sustainable development plan, which will be articulated around major issues, such as conservation of biodiversity, combating climate change, and sustainable water management.

Actions envisioned:

- Propose a sustainable development bill;
- Adopt a departmental sustainable development plan.

Orientation 2: Review environmental governance

The Department will continue its work with the aim of alleviating the administrative burden on businesses and facilitating the application of environmental standards, particularly by simplification of the preliminary authorization systems and the environmental assessment procedure, primarily for projects which have a limited impact on the environment. The Department will also review its Residual Materials Management Policy, in order to assign more responsibility to producers and strengthen the rules regarding burial and incineration of residual materials, and will reinforce its field monitoring interventions.

Actions envisioned:

- Propose a regulatory amendment to implement the environmental compliance attestation system;
- Propose an amendment to the Regulation respecting environmental impact assessment and review (R.R.Q., 1981, c. Q-2, r.9);
- Prepare a 2005-2008 implementation plan for the Québec Residual Materials Management Policy;
- Sign a performance and accountability agreement with the Centre de contrôle environnemental du Québec.

Orientation 3: Protect and enhance water and aquatic ecosystems by implementation of the Québec Water Policy

The Department will provide technical and financial support to the watershed agencies. In support of these agencies, it will deepen its knowledge of water and provide them with information to prepare their water reports. The Department will pursue its interventions in the agricultural environment to achieve the phosphorus balance for agricultural land with the goal of better protecting water quality and the ecosystems. Finally, it will ensure that the drinking water distributed to the public is of good quality and that the operators of the drinking water distribution system verify the bacteriological quality of drinking water according to the established frequencies.

Actions envisioned:

- Provide technical and financial support to the watershed agencies;
- Complete the work on knowledge of the aquifers in the Châteauguay watershed.

Orientation 4: Conserve biological diversity

The creation of protected areas, including the development of the national parks network and the conservation of wetlands, represents the preferred means for Québec to safeguard biological diversity. The Department will pay special attention to the protection of ecosystems representative of the biological diversity of the territory, and the conservation of rare ecosystems and habitats of threatened or vulnerable species. To protect the wetlands of the St. Lawrence Valley, the Department will prepare a policy for conservation and sustainable management of these environments, which will guide the future actions of the government and of the regional and local authorities. It will ensure the integration of standards designed to protect shorelines and flood plains in the regional land use plans.

Action envisioned:

- Add 6,000 km² to the areas classified as protected areas.

Orientation 5: Reduce air pollution and promote adaptation to climate change

In support of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on reduction of greenhouse gases, the Department will formulate a strategy on climate change in collaboration with other departments. The Department will also update Québec's clean air standards and will prepare a new clean air regulation. In addition, it will implement the Heavy Vehicles Inspection and Maintenance Program.

Actions envisioned:

- Propose a Québec strategy on climate change;
- Update clean air standards;
- Implement the Heavy Vehicles Inspection and Maintenance Program.

Orientation 6: Improve the quality of services to the public

Individuals and businesses will have access to better environmental information and the possibility of receiving more online services. The Department will increase the accessibility of information on the state of the environment, so that the public is better informed and so that companies and public bodies fully assume their environmental and public health responsibilities. It will also facilitate access to its services by adapting the regulations to the new environmental realities, alleviating administrative formalities and promoting online electronic data interchange. The Department will ensure that its personnel can meet the new service delivery challenges. A three-year plan of its workforce needs will be prepared and implemented.

Actions envisioned:

- Disseminate documents on the state of the environment;
- Offer new online services;
- Adopt a 2005-2008 workforce plan.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The Department's 2005-2006 expenditure budget amounts to \$177.9 million, divided between two programs: Environmental Protection and Parks Management and Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement.

The reduction of \$3.6 million and 22 FTEs in the 2005-2006 expenditures budget in relation to the 2004-2005 expenditure budget is explained by the following factors:

- Expenditure reduction measures of \$2.8 million related to the rationalization of administrative activities in matters of communication and management services, non-replacement of part of the retirements (22 FTEs), and reduction of the Department's participation in certain financial assistance programs;
- A correction of \$0.8 million, representing the combined effect of other administrative adjustments, particularly the \$1.6 million contribution of the Société des établissements de plein air du Québec to the Department's budgetary effort.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Environmental Protection and Parks Management	172,704.2	(3,462.1)	176,166.3	177,238.2
2. Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement	5,236.6	(150.2)	5,386.8	5,812.0
Total	177,940.8	(3,612.3)	181,553.1	183,050.2
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	1,887	(22)	1,909	—

Program 1: Environmental Protection and Parks Management

The purpose of this program is to ensure the protection of the environment within a sustainable development perspective, by the formulation and implementation of policies and programs with the objectives of prevention or reduction of water, air and soil contamination, restoration of contaminated sites and protection of living environments, ecosystems and resources. It is also intended to ensure the development of the parks network for conservation, education or recreation purposes, in a sustainable development perspective.

The \$3.5 million reduction in this program's expenditure budget is explained by the main factors already mentioned.

Program 2: Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement

The purpose of this program is to ensure the holding of public consultation and information sessions prescribed in the environmental impact assessment and review process for development projects and the holding of inquiries and consultations on any environment-related matter.

The BAPE's 2005-2006 budget is essentially maintained at the same level as the previous year.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	18,767.2	18,722.2
Loans, Investments and Advances	—	—

The capital budget remains comparable to that of the 2004-2005 fiscal year. This budget will ensure the fulfillment of the Department's capital expenditure plan. The principal measures related to this plan include:

- Regular maintenance work on the dams and work related to the administration of the Dam Safety Act (R.S.Q., c. S-3.1.01);
- Development of information systems;
- Acquisition of scientific equipment;
- Renewal of the vehicle fleet.

EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCY

	2005-2006 Agency Budget (\$000)	2004-2005 Agency Budget (\$000)
Société québécoise de récupération et de recyclage (RECYC-QUÉBEC)	54,029.0	29,727.0

RECYC-QUÉBEC has the mission to promote, develop and foster the reduction, reuse, recovery and recycling of containers, packaging, materials or products, and their reclamation within a resource conservation perspective. The Société is mandated to coordinate the activities prescribed in the 1998-2008 Québec Residual Materials Management Policy.

The increase in RECYC-QUÉBEC's revenues in 2005-2006 is the result of the coming into force of the Regulation respecting compensation for municipal services provided to recover and reclaim residual materials (R.S.Q., c. Q-2, a.53.31.2, 53.31.4, 53.31.12). The purpose of this Regulation, which provides for a compensation plan, managed by RECYC-QUÉBEC, is to increase the responsibility of businesses which manufacture, market or distribute products, by providing for their participation in the expenditures occasioned for the municipalities.

DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE, INNOVATION ET EXPORTATION

HIGHLIGHTS

- The following are the main issues that will be the focus of the budget allocations to the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation:
 - Strengthen and diversify regional economies;
 - Stimulate private-sector investments;
 - Improve commercial export capacity;
 - Keep the research and development system at the lead among industrialized countries;
 - Encourage businesses to adopt innovations;
 - Create an environment conducive to the development of business prosperity.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Department's mission is to support economic and regional development as well as research, in particular by fostering coordination and cooperation among the various players in the economy and sciences with a view to job creation, economic prosperity, scientific advances, and sustainable development.

Pursuit of this mission primarily takes the following forms:

- Developing orientations and strategies for economic, scientific and technological development, as well as innovation and exports;
- Providing advisory services for both its partners and clientele in its areas of expertise, and undertaking studies and analyses to support those services;
- Designing and developing, directly or through delegation to partners, measures and programs in its activity spheres;
- Promote Québec's image and competitive advantages to foreign investors;
- Coordination and mobilization of its public and private partners in taking action that contributes to making the Government's vision a reality.

It should be noted that the Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec, Conseil de la science et de la technologie, Coopérative régionale d'électricité de Saint-Jean-Baptiste-de-Rouville, Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec, Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies, Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture, Investissement Québec, Société de développement de la Zone de commerce international de Montréal à Mirabel, Société du parc industriel de Bécancour, Société générale de financement, Société Innovatech de Québec – Chaudière-Appalaches, Société Innovatech des Régions ressources and Société Innovatech du Sud du Québec are agencies reporting to the Minister.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The Department provides the main support functions for Québec's economic development in the areas of industry, trade, exports, innovation and research and development. The budgetary choices for 2005-2006 reflect the environment in which the Department has to fulfill its mission and the ensuing issues.

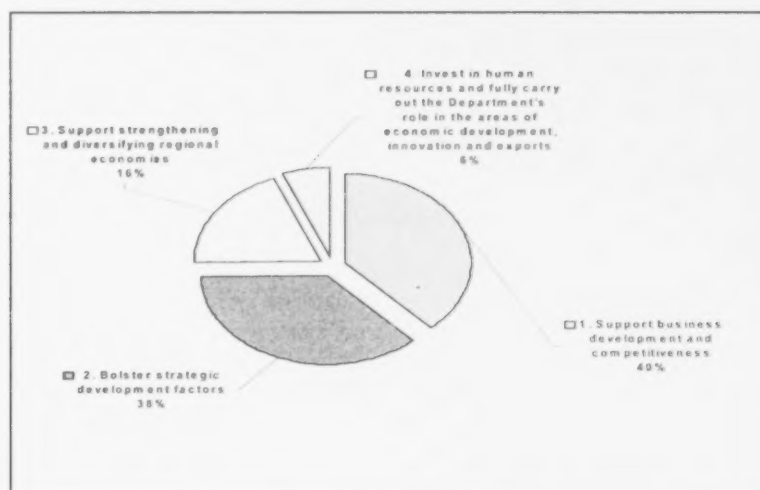
Context:

- Solid economic performance by Québec, with room for improvement however;
- Increased competition from emerging economies;
- Substantial regional economic disparities;
- A will to renew the Government's role and ways of doing things.

Issues:

- The global competitiveness of Québec's economy;
- Sustainable regional economic development;
- Organizational leadership and performance.

The Department's main budgetary choices for fiscal 2005-2006 stem from these key issues and are divided into four basic orientations. Expenditures on Department programs will total \$576.4 million in 2005-2006. The following pie chart shows the breakdown of these allocations:

**Orientation 1: Support business development and competitiveness**

Line of intervention: Adoption of innovations by business stakeholders.

Objective: Stimulate an increase in business investments in machinery and equipment.

Actions envisioned: Target direct investment assistance based on its impact on productivity and employment;

Ensure the complementarity of the investment support actions taken by the Department and by government corporations;

Participate in the development and implementation of strategies on the availability of a qualified workforce;

Solicit foreign investment in a more targeted manner.

Line of intervention: Develop major North American and world markets.

Objective: Increase business exports in North American and world markets.

Actions envisioned: Support businesses in the most promising export markets;
Host foreign missions;
Participate in promotional events abroad;
Organize trade missions and fairs.

Line of intervention: Increase private investment.

Objective: Increase the private sector's share in venture capital by converting the Innovatech corporations and creating public-private investment funds on a regional and sectoral basis.

Actions envisioned: Encourage creation of regional economic intervention funds in every region of Québec;
Convert the three Innovatechs into corporations with a combination of public and private capital.

Orientation 2: Bolster strategic development factors

Line of intervention: Maintenance of the research and development system and consolidation of an environment conducive to economic development.

Objective: Encourage more Québec investments into research (both industrial and academic) and development so as to attain 3% of gross domestic product in the medium term.

Actions envisioned: Target and support strategic fields that are likely to yield the maximum benefits for Québec;
Achieve the required consensus to renew Québec's research strategy to ensure that it makes a greater contribution to collective prosperity;
Foster the development and transfer of research results to wealth-creating enterprises.

Line of intervention:	Renewal of the entrepreneurial base.
Objective:	Increase the rate of new business creation and survival.
Actions envisioned:	Provide more follow-up for young businesses at local development centres; Strengthen the existing network of technology incubators and university entrepreneurship centres; Collaborate with the guidance offered by the Fondation de l'entrepreneuriat, which includes mentoring and the creation of boards of directors for new businesses.

Orientation 3: Support strengthening and diversifying regional economies

Line of intervention:	Increase in regional competitiveness.
Objective:	Foster regional industrial diversity.
Actions envisioned:	Support projects aimed at creating wealth and jobs in the regions; Develop and implement an approach for strengthening and diversifying the economy in single-industry towns.

Orientation 4: Invest in human resources and fully carry out the Department's role in the areas of economic development, innovation and exports

Line of intervention:	Simplify the Department's relations with its clients.
Objective:	Annually increase the usage and satisfaction rates for the Portail gouvernemental de services aux entreprises.
Action envisioned:	Embark on the second phase of developing the portal by introducing online services related to starting businesses and fulfilling obligations (taxes and income tax payable, deductions and source, updating the information in the Registre des entreprises, etc).

3. BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Department Administration	37,204.9	(3,368.7)	40,573.6	38,541.2
2. Economic Development and Assistance to Enterprises	316,191.4	(34,212.7)	350,404.1	304,309.8
3. Research, Science and Technology	222,992.9	(17,110.1)	240,103.0	239,504.9
Total	576,389.2	(54,691.5)	631,080.7	582,355.9
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	1,036	(26)	1,062	—

Note: The Economic Development and Assistance to Enterprises program includes provisions that allow for transfers to other government programs where the probable expenditure is increased accordingly. The probable expenditure of this program has been reduced by \$9.7 million due to such transfers.

The \$54.7-million (8.7%) decrease from fiscal 2004-2005 is due in part to the non-recurrence of certain programs to assist businesses and support research and innovation, combined with cutbacks in certain programs, compensation and operations. On the other hand, the 2005-2006 budget includes additional funding to support the implementation of strategic investment projects, stimulate regional economic diversification, and support businesses coping with competition from emerging economies.

Program 1: Department Administration

The objective of this program is to handle administration of the Department and central services in terms of communications and management support.

The 2005-2006 expenditure budget is \$3.4 million (8.3%) less than in 2004-2005 as the result of an effort to rationalize administrative spending.

Program 2: Economic Development and Assistance to Enterprises

The objective of this program is to offer technical and financial support to enterprises and organizations for industrial, commercial, and cooperative development and market development for job creation. It also contains budget allocations for the support of local and regional economic development.

The \$34.2-million (9.8%) decrease in comparison to the 2004-2005 budget stems from the gradual fulfillment of commitments under the FAIRE program (\$25.2 million), the non-recurrence of certain measures announced in the Budget Speech (\$19.4 million), greater self-financing by Investissement Québec (\$4.9 million), savings in the areas of compensation and operations (\$2.3 million), and deferral of certain commitments under the Stratégie de développement économique des régions ressources (\$20.6 million). Moreover, an addition \$15 million is budgeted to support strategic investment projects and \$23.2 million for various other measures, primarily to support the development of business and industrial sectors, including the textiles and garment industry, and support for communities facing economic hard times.

Program 3: Research, Science and Technology

The objective of this program is to implement and follow up on the Québec Policy for Science and Innovation and to support research and researcher training, innovation, liaison and transfer, the promotion of scientific and technological careers, the dissemination of knowledge and the international promotion of Québec research and innovation.

The 17.1-million (7.1%) decrease from the 2004-2005 budget is primarily the result of a \$10.6-million reduction in the allocation for Génome Québec which will thus receive less government funding in 2005-2006, along with a total of \$6.5 million in cutbacks to certain programs, remuneration and operations.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	5,356.8	4,495.1
Loans, Investments and Advances	33,018.5	75,175.8

The \$0.9-million increase in the capital budget is primarily attributable to development of the Portail gouvernemental des services aux entreprises and a communication systems upgrade.

The \$42.2-million decrease in the allocation for Loans, Investments and Advances budget is due mainly to reduced funding for the FAIRE program (\$28.5 million), a smaller budget for the Business Assistance Fund (\$6.9 million), and the fact that the \$6.8-million envelopes allocated to the Fonds local d'investissement in 2004-2005 are non-recurring.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCY AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Budget-funded Agency		
Conseil de la science et de la technologie	1,202.4	1,332.1
Extrabudgetary Agencies		
Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec	29,830.0	34,445.0
Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec	85,100.8	85,488.0
Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies	43,326.3	42,457.3
Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la société et la culture	46,842.9	46,842.9
Investissement Québec	253,964.0	237,201.0
Société du parc industriel et portuaire de Bécancour	5,306.8	4,683.6

ÉDUCATION, LOISIR ET SPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ The expenditure budget for the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport in 2005-2006 is \$12,201.9 million, an increase of \$320.5 million or 2.7% compared to the probable expenditure for 2004-2005.
- ❑ With this increase, the Department will be able to maintain the quality of educational services by funding growth factors in the education networks and by continuing and reinforcing investments undertaken last year to ensure greater student success. This budget will also make it possible to continue promoting recreation and sports to ensure that good and safe practices are adopted in recreational and sporting activities.
- ❑ In accordance with an agreement with the students, the Department will increase bursaries by \$70 million during the 2005-2006 allocation year, reaching \$103 million in 2006-2007.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

Through its constituting Act and in respecting the responsibilities conferred by the laws to educational institutions and schools, the Department is responsible for developing and proposing policies on preschool education, elementary and secondary education, college education and university education and research in order to:

- Promote education;
- Contribute, through the promotion, development and support of these fields, to raising the scientific, cultural and professional level of the Québec population;
- Further access to the highest forms of learning and culture for any person who has the desire and the necessary ability;
- Contribute to the harmonization of educational orientations and activities with all governmental policies and with the economic, social and cultural needs of Québec society.

The Department thus fulfills its educational mission on the basis of a sharing of responsibilities with the educational networks, which are responsible for delivering the programs of study and other educational services. However, with regard to Financial Assistance for Education and the granting of diplomas, the Department stands in a direct relationship with students.

The Department is also responsible for advising the government on matters related to recreation and sports and for ensuring interdepartmental consistency in these fields. Its main responsibility, in partnership with those involved, consists of fostering the development of recreation and sports in a healthy and safe environment and promoting a physically active lifestyle to everyone in Québec.

The Department assumes the role and responsibilities that its constituting Act confers upon it by performing six key functions, which define its various levers of intervention:

- Orient and plan the educational services offered in the territory to meet the needs of the Québec population;
- Inform the population about the performance of the education system, its development and achievement of fixed objectives;
- Sensitize and inform citizens so they can adopt good and safe behaviour when engaging in recreational and sporting activities;
- Help train those involved in the fields of recreation and sports and support the partners in implementing a good environment and supervision;
- Manage the resources allocated by the National Assembly and distribute them;
- Advise the legislator and political decision-makers.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Department draws upon the work and opinions of various agencies, such as the Conseil supérieur de l'Éducation, Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial and the Advisory Board on Private Education.

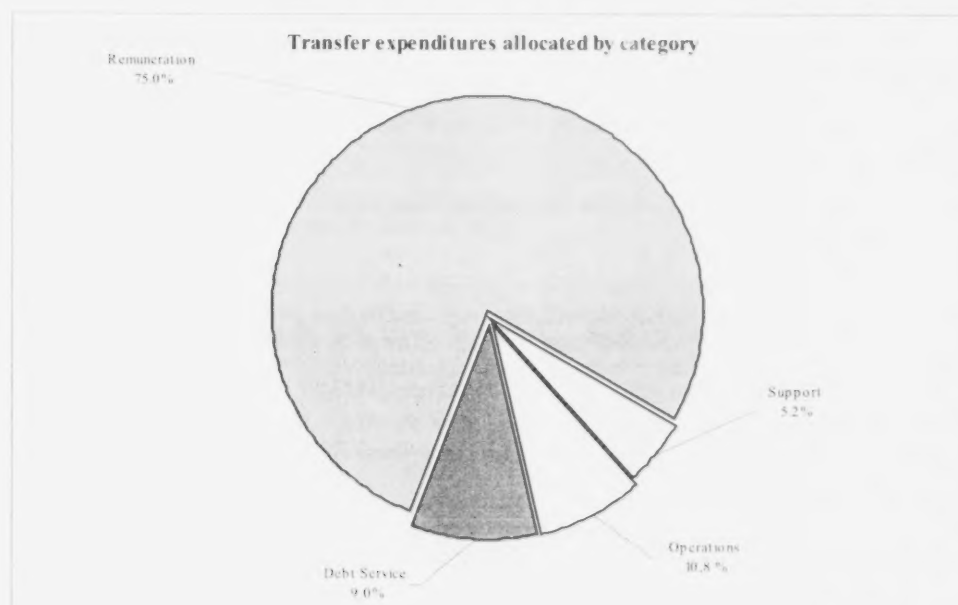
The Act constituting the Conseil supérieur de l'Éducation mandates it to submit its annual report on the state and needs of education to the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport. It must also advise the Minister on the regulations or draft regulations that the Minister is required to submit to it, and any issue under its jurisdiction put before it by the Minister. Additionally, the Conseil supérieur de l'Éducation may, on its own initiative, provide advice on any educational matters it deems appropriate.

The mandate of the Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial is primarily to evaluate the quality and implementation of the programs of study offered in Québec colleges, and the institutional policies of colleges for assessing learning and programs.

The Advisory Board on Private Education is mandated to advise the Minister on all matters under its jurisdiction in the field of private education. In particular, it makes recommendations on the issuing, amendment, renewal or revocation of licenses or accreditation.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The Department's budget is \$12,201.9 million. Most of the budget, i.e. 98.5%, is allocated to transfer expenditures, primarily to the networks. 75% of transfer expenditures are allocated to remuneration, 10.8% to operations, 9% to debt service and 5.2% to other education beneficiaries and partners.



The Department's financial resources are allocated so as to ensure the continuity and continuing improvement of the quality services provided. Nearly the whole of the budget is thus allocated to recurring expenses.

For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Department's budgetary choices are based on the following orientations:

- Redevelop preschool education, elementary education and secondary education;
- Strengthen professional and technical training and continuing education;
- Consolidate higher education in conjunction with our partners;
- Contribute to the development of the regions;
- Encourage the population to participate in more physical, recreational and sports activities within a safe and healthy environment;
- Improve our services and relationships with our partners.

PRE-SCHOOL, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

The budget for pre-school education and primary and secondary instruction is \$7,203.8 million; it is intended to provide for the network's operations and maintenance of measures for ensuring greater success for students.

In the context of providing better student support and supervision and additional support to parents and teachers, the Department will inject a second portion of \$10 million during the 2005-2006 school year for additional professional resources working in complementary services to counter academic difficulties and encourage students to stay in school. In 2004-2005, an amount of \$10 million was already invested for this purpose.

The Department will continue to support the educational institutions in their continuing implementation of homework assistance projects.

The Department will also maintain an amount of \$5 million to help educational institutions implement projects to develop healthy lifestyle habits, including regular physical activity and healthy food (Wellness Oriented School project). As well, a contribution in the amount of \$2 million to Québec en forme renewed in 2005-2006.

The Department will again invest \$180 million to help students with handicaps or who experience difficulties to help them develop skills that result in success (Early Steps Toward Success).

For the fourth year, an amount of \$25 million will be budgeted in continuation of the investment of \$125 million in the "New Approaches, New Solutions" intervention strategy. The strategy is designed to implement interventions for the success of high school students in specific disadvantaged milieus.

For the second year, the Department will set aside an amount of \$13.3 million to complete the three-year plan on reading at school. This three-year plan involves an initial investment of \$60 million in school libraries, with the Department contributing \$40 million and the school boards contributing \$20 million. This plan of action, classified under pleasure and discovery, targets boys more specifically because a higher number of boys usually experience reading difficulties.

In order to maintain the supply of educational services in the regions, the Department will budget an amount of \$12.4 million to maintain educational services in village schools. The budget is intended to improve the quality of instruction, support teachers, help students develop socially and improve buildings.

The Department will allocate an additional amount of \$22.5 million to continue in its efforts to ensure access to good quality school bus transportation services throughout the territory. This means that a total amount of \$45 million will have been invested over a period of two years.

The Department will continue supporting the completion of the Government policy on adult education and continuing education and training whose purpose is to develop a culture of lifelong learning. An amount of \$20 million will be allocated for this purpose. Among other things, it will be used to develop new programs in general education in the adult sector, to implement services adapted to those 16-24 years of age in the school boards and to progressively implement new integration, reference, advisory and support services. It will also make it possible to support service groups in the recognition of prior learning.

Finally, in terms of vocational education, the Department will continue reviewing programs by competency and update those that need to be updated.

HIGHER EDUCATION

In higher education, the budget of \$3,780.1 million is broken down as follows: \$2,251.9 million, or 59.6%, for university education and research; \$1,528.2 million, or 40.4%, for college education. These budgets include the debt service for each of these two sectors.

In the college sector, the Department is maintaining its support to encourage students to stay in school and help them succeed. In this regard, in addition to the budget of \$36.7 million invested on an annual basis, the Department is maintaining the addition of \$5 million granted in 2004-2005.

In technical education, the Department plans to implement the latest programs reviewed in a competency-based approach.

In order to maintain the supply of educational services in CEGEPs that are far from major centres lessen the effect of the decrease in enrolments, the Department will continue providing assistance by extending an amount of approximately \$15 million for this purpose.

In its unanimous report, the Parliamentary Committee on Education for the Quality, Accessibility and Funding of Universities, prepared in the winter of 2004, recommended "that the funding granted by the government of Québec, combined with other sources of funding available, will allow the Québec university system to catch up with the level of funding of Canadian universities with a reasonable timeframe (recommendation 20)". The Department intends to follow up on the recommendations of the parliamentary committee as budgets allow. Certain recommendations that do not require financial support have been applied, or will be applied soon.

Furthermore, the Department will continue providing financial support to universities in the regions, by extending an amount of approximately \$33 million to ensure that they can continue providing various educational services in remote regions or regions with smaller clientele.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EDUCATION

A budget of \$334.8 million will be allocated to Financial Assistance for Education for the loans and bursaries program and complementary programs.

In accordance with an agreement reached with the students, the government will increase bursaries by \$70 million during the 2005-2006 allocation year, reaching \$103 million in 2006-2007. Given that the new allocation year (September to August) overlaps two fiscal years for the government, the impact on expenses is spread over two fiscal years.

With a view to improving services to clients and communications with the schools and financial institutions, the Loans and Bursaries program has been updated since 1999 through the development of the Contact project at a cost of approximately \$50 million, for which final deliveries are planned for April 2006.

Students will now be able to determine the amount of assistance to which they are eligible at the beginning of each allocation year. Since January 2005, financial assistance has been paid to them on a monthly or periodic basis by electronic transfer to their bank account. These measures are major improvements in terms of services to clients.

In 2005-2006, the Contact project will integrate the administrative and computer procedures of the latest mission-dedicated systems for Student Financial Assistance, namely claims management, collection, and accounts receivable systems.

DEVELOPMENT OF RECREATION AND SPORT

The Department will budget an amount of \$40 million to the development of recreation and sport to promote recreation and volunteer activity, and \$24.9 million to promote sports and safety, as well as for research. To promote a physically active lifestyle, in a healthy and safe environment, the Department will support various players including the municipalities, educational institutions and others, for the installation of accessible, healthy and safe facilities. Three plans of action related to sports and physical activity, recreation and safety in recreational and sporting activities are to be implemented.

The Department will also support Québec athletes on the Canadian and international sports scene and volunteer commitment in recreation and sport. The Department plans to develop a project to set up a Québec centre of excellence to support trainers, high-level athletes and national training centres. Other actions are also planned, including the determination of reference criteria for the integration and organization of high-level events in Québec and continuation of the Team Québec Program and "Québec at the Games" movement.

ADMINISTRATION AND CONSULTING

For administration and consultation, a budget of \$127.1 million is allocated to human, financial, equipment and computer resources for the management and administration of all programs for which the Department is responsible, except the Student Financial Assistance Program.

Departmental projects to modernize the information systems and infrastructures to improve availability and accessibility to information on the education system and its development are under way.

To support the reform undertaken in preschool education and elementary and secondary education, an important project to modernize the administrative and information systems has been implemented (Charlemagne project). The purpose of this project is to improve our partnerships with elementary and secondary educational institutions and its main objectives will be to support certification of studies operations, at the secondary level, school attendance control mechanisms and schools at the preschool, elementary and secondary levels. The expected investment for the 2005-2006 work plan will be \$9.8 million, with a total budget of \$33.4 million.

Since 2003-2004, the Department has been setting up a departmental data warehouse. Investments totalling \$1.3 million are anticipated for 2005-2006 to complete work on this project in an amount of \$5 million. Activities in the coming year will consist of the addition of new information on enrollments, results and the certification of studies, particularly at the college and university levels.

The departmental Portal project was launched in 2004-2005 and should be completed by the end of March 2007. Expected investments in 2005-2006 should reach \$2.7 million from a total budget of \$5 million. In the initial phase, it will involve implementing technological and organizational foundations for the project, as well as improving the Department's Web site to make services of interest to citizens available in a coherent and ergonomic manner.

For its part, the Socrate project is part of the improvement in services to citizens and will make all of the information required in the files of students enrolled in colleges available to those involved. The Department will invest \$5.3 million in this project in 2005-2006, with a total budget of approximately \$16 million.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The Department's expenditure budget for 2005-2006 is \$314.3 million higher than the budget for the previous fiscal year. This budget increase does not include any amounts for salary indexation, which are currently under negotiation.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Administration and Consulting	127,148.4	(8,073.7)	135,222.1	130,019.8
2. Tourism and Hotel Industry Training	18,789.2	1,720.0	17,069.2	17,069.2
3. Financial Assistance for Education	334,771.6	40,584.8	294,186.8	279,198.6
4. Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education	7,203,803.5	143,440.3	7,060,363.2	7,075,807.0
5. Higher Education	3,780,120.5	133,900.7	3,646,219.8	3,644,507.7
6. Development of Recreation and Sport	64,875.9	—	64,875.9	65,108.4
7. Retirement Plans	672,418.0	2,718.0	669,700.0	669,700.0
Total	12,201,927.1	314,290.1	11,887,637.0	11,881,410.7
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	1,489	(32)	1,521	—

Program 1: Administration and Consulting

The objective of this program is to administer all programs entrusted to the Department, except for Financial Assistance for Education, and to support the activities of the education networks by providing the services required to carry out their mandates. This program also provides for the operations of consulting and evaluation agencies in the field of education.

The 2005-2006 expenditure decreases by \$8.1 million, or 6%. This reduction is primarily due to the rationalization of all of the Department's administrative activities, particularly those related to the plan for smaller government.

Program 2: Tourism and Hotel Industry Training

The objective of this program is to provide vocational, technical and academic training activities in the hotel, restaurant and tourism fields. It also supports research and provides technical assistance and services in these fields.

The increase in the expenditure budget for 2005-2006 is \$1.7 million, or 10.1%, and is mainly attributable to repayment of the loan required to carry out renovations to the Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec which were completed in February 2005. This work was undertaken in 2002-2003 at a cost of \$39 million.

Program 3: Financial assistance for Education

This program promotes access to secondary-level education in professional training and to full-or part-time post-secondary education. It provides financial support to individuals who are deemed to have inadequate financial resources.

The increase in the expenditure budget for this program takes into account the \$70 million increase in bursaries which will go into effect during the next allocation year. Given that the allocation year overlaps two fiscal years for the government, the net increase is \$40.6 million, or 13.8% for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

Program 4: Pre-school, Primary and Secondary Education

The objective of this program is to make education and educational support services available to pupils at these levels by providing school boards, subsidized private institutions and various agencies with the financial resources required for their operations and development. It also includes the subsidies for school transportation.

The increase in the program's expenditures is \$143.4 million, or 2%. This level of resources will ensure that the quality of services will be maintained, as will the funding of various growth factors in the network. This budget also includes an additional amount of \$6.4 million (\$10 million for the school year) for additional professional resources.

Program 5: Higher education

The objective of this program is to make educational services accessible to college and university students by providing the institutions with the financial resources required for their operations and development.

The increase in the program's expenditures is \$133.9 million, or 3.7%. This level of resources will ensure that the quality of services will be maintained, as will the funding of various growth factors in the network.

Program 6: Development of Recreation and Sport

The objective of this program is to promote and encourage recreation and sport activities by supporting community organizations and specific clientele. It also seeks to support volunteer activities, with a special focus on safety in recreational and sports activities.

The expenditure budget of \$64.9 million is maintained, given the needs and effort required to lead the highest number of Québec residents to adopt and maintain a physically active lifestyle and thereby help to improve the health and well-being of the population.

Program 7: Retirement Plans

This program includes the pension plan for teachers, government employees, public agencies and supervisory personnel applicable to personnel in the network. The increase in the expenditure budget of \$2.7 million is primarily due to the agreement reached with teachers.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	40,383.4	40,401.5
Loans, Investments and Advances	138,600.0	138,600.0

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCIES AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCY

	2005-2006 Agency Budget (\$000)	2004-2005 Agency Budget (\$000)
Budget-funded Agencies		
Commission consultative de l'enseignement privé	115.7	102.0
Commission d'évaluation de l'enseignement collégial	2,123.6	2,313.9
Conseil supérieur de l'éducation	2,255.9	2,401.9
Extrabudgetary Agency		
Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec ¹	24,668.4	21,125.4

¹ The revenue expected from the Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec is provided based on its fiscal year ending on June 30.

EMPLOI ET SOLIDARITÉ SOCIALE

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ The Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale plans to implement a comprehensive strategy based on considering employment a personal and social development factor as well as an instrument in reducing poverty and social exclusion, by fostering the contribution of the largest number of people to the job market. The Department will therefore first and foremost focus on helping the people it serves in integrating the labour market and remaining employed.
- ❑ The Department intends to improve the continuum of services for individual and businesses by establishing more effective public employment services primarily for income security beneficiaries fit to work. It also aims to improve the financial support services intended for the needy and the socio-occupational integration of people farther removed from the labour market.
- ❑ The Department will implement and administer the Québec Parental Insurance Plan. In this regard, on March 1, 2005 negotiations with the federal government led to a final agreement on implementation of the plan, which provides more generous compensation than the federal one and more flexibility for parents, who have a choice of two options for the term and level of benefits.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Department contributes to the social development and economic prosperity of Québec by stimulating fulfilment of individual potential through:

- Promoting employment and workforce development and improving the operation of the labour market;
- Providing financial support for the needy as well as combating poverty and social exclusion.

The Department serves the following clientele:

- People in the workforce with or without jobs, as well as those who do not have sufficient resources to meet their needs;
- Enterprises;
- Needy families;
- Community organizations.

To carry out its mission, the Department has an administrative structure based on two complementary activity niches: Emploi-Québec and Sécurité du revenu. The regional offices of Emploi-Québec and Sécurité du revenu, the 154 local employment centres where Emploi-Québec and Sécurité du revenu work together, the Centre de communication avec la clientèle with its two service outlets, and the Centre d'assistance au placement give the Department a presence in all 17 of Québec's administrative regions. These local and regional units are supported by a set of central ones.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The Department's budgetary choices are based on three main orientations:

- Encourage a contribution by as many people as possible to the labour market;
- Fight against poverty and social exclusion;
- Modernize the Department's work methods.

Orientation 1: Encourage a contribution by as many people as possible to the labour market

The objectives of the first orientation are designed to:

- Ensure the full use of Québec labour;
- Upgrade the qualifications and skills of the workforce throughout the Québec;
- Help businesses achieve productivity gains and become more competitive as well as more adaptable in the face of change.

Objective:

Increase the employment rate of people assisted by Emploi-Québec.

Action envisioned:

Provide more support for the clientele Emploi-Québec works with.

Objective:

Implement in 2005 the governmental Plan for employment: "Employment: passport for the future".

Action envisioned:

Carry out the implementation plan in 2005.

Objective:

Introduce the Québec Parental Insurance Plan on January 1, 2006.

Action envisioned:

Ensure the Québec Parental Insurance Plan is implemented by January 1, 2006.

Orientation 2: Fight against poverty and social exclusion

The objectives of the second orientation are designed to:

- Foster access to jobs for groups affected by poverty and social exclusion, and promote the value of work;
- Review the social and financial security net in light of the Government Action Plan to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion;
- Encourage local and regional communities to develop strategies and projects for combating poverty and social exclusion.

Objective:

Increase the employment rate of employment-assistance beneficiaries who are Emploi-Québec clients.

Actions envisioned:

Increase support for the employment-assistance beneficiaries whom Emploi-Québec works with.

Act swiftly with benefit applicants and beneficiaries fit to hold a job so that they find stable employment as quickly as possible.

Objective:

Lower the social assistance rate.

Actions envisioned:

Adopt an approach that promotes the value of work and individual responsibility and is based on an integrated offer of services more capable of supporting sustainable employment.

Undertake an in-depth review of Emploi-Québec's methods of working with the most vulnerable, primarily in light of best practices in use abroad and here, including consideration of the option of converting employment-assistance benefits into active measures in order to make the most of the resources available to help those clientele find jobs.

Objective:

Ensure a better match between the services offered and clientele needs by implementing programs that deal with particular problems.

Actions envisioned:

Implement a program that addresses the special problem of employment-assistance beneficiaries with serious employment constraints.

Implement the Alternative Youth Program.

Objective:

Simplify the income-security plan.

Action envisioned:

Implement the new regulatory framework associated with the Individual and Family Assistance Act

Orientation 3: Modernize the Department's work methods

The objectives associated with this third orientation stem from implementation of the government's 2004-2007 modernization plan. They endeavour to:

- Ensure upgraded, streamlined service delivery;
- Contribute to the creation of e-government;
- Ensure efficient human resource management.

Objective:

Offer quality integrated services.

Action envisioned:

Consolidate employment and social solidarity services.

Objective:

Contribute to the creation of Services Québec.

Action envisioned:

Arrive at and implement a partnership agreement between the Department and Services Québec.

Objective:

Implement the "Portail Emploi".

Action envisioned:

Ensure the "Portail Emploi" is implemented.

Objective:

Ensure the continuity of client services within the context of modernizing service delivery and workforce renewal.

Action envisioned:

Introduce a human resource planning process suitable for the Department's challenges and the context of modernizing the government.

Objective:

Ensure maintenance of the quality of service for clients by more closely matching occupational skills and job qualifications.

Action envisioned:

Implement a skills management policy that incorporates measures for renewal (training and requalification) as well as the transfer of expertise.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The 2005-2006 budget for the "Emploi et Solidarité sociale" portfolio totals \$4,011.7 million, or \$85.7 million less than in the 2004-2005 expenditure budget.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Employment Assistance Measures	899,508.2	(9,595.6)	909,103.8	914,555.8
2. Financial Assistance Measures	2,913,640.2	(61,272.5)	2,974,912.7	2,961,730.9
3. Management Support	198,556.8	(14,785.5)	213,342.3	206,909.2
Total	4,011,705.2	(85,653.6)	4,097,358.8	4,083,195.9
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	3,939	(64)	4,003	—

Notes: An adjustment was made to present the expenditure budget and the 2004-2005 probable expenditure budget on the same basis as in 2005-2006. The adjustment led, for 2004-2005, a reduction of \$11.9 million in the portfolio to take into account financial assistance measures that are recorded to reduce budget revenues as of January 1, 2005.

The Employment Assistance Measures and Financial Assistance Measures programs include provisions that allow transfers to other government programs where the probable expenditure is increased accordingly. In these programs, the expenditures were reduced due to such transfers.

Program 1: Employment Assistance Measures

This program funds Emploi-Québec and the Commission des partenaires du marché du travail. It also develops labour and employment policies.

The expenditure budget for this program decreases by \$9.6 million in 2005-2006, from \$909.1 million to \$899.5 million. This variance is primarily the result of administrative cutbacks.

Program 2: Financial Assistance Measures

The objective of this program is to make financial assistance services accessible to all citizens who request them and can prove the need, through the income security network and that of the City of Montréal. More specifically, it enables individuals to receive assistance of last resort based on the difference between their resources and essential needs. The program also provides low-income individuals with dependent children with a supplement based on their employment income to encourage them to remain in or enter the labour market. Moreover, the Action emploi initiative, introduced on a trial basis in 2001-2002, aims to help chronic employment-assistance beneficiaries find stable jobs by offering temporary supplements to employment income. This program also provides the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board with the funds required to support the traditional activities of members of that community. As well, this program grants community organizations funding in connection with their overall mission. Moreover, through the Youth Solidarity program, it financially supports young people under age 25 who are fit to work and who apply for employment assistance by offering them the opportunity to take steps to become personally, financially and professionally independent. Lastly, it also aims to pay down the Fonds québécois d'initiatives sociales and to develop income security policies.

The expenditure budget for this program decreases by \$61.3 million in 2005-2006, from \$2,974.9 million to \$2,913.6 million. This variance is mainly due to a smaller employment-assistance clientele than expected in fiscal 2005-2006 along with administrative cutbacks.

Program 3: Management Support

The purpose of this program is to plan, administer, and coordinate human, financial, material and information resources essential to program management.

The expenditure budget for this program decreases by \$14.8 million in 2005-2006, from \$213.3 million to \$198.6 million. This variance is the result of administrative cutbacks.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	1,137.5	1,109.6
Loans, Investments and Advances	1,250.0	1,250.0

The Capital Budget remains essentially the same as in fiscal 2004-2005.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCY AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCY

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Budget-funded Agency		
Commission des partenaires du marché du travail	1,635.2	1,614.4
Extrabudgetary Agency		
Office de la sécurité du revenu des chasseurs et piégeurs cris	20,302.4	18,816.8

SPECIAL FUNDS

ASSISTANCE FUND FOR INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY ACTION

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	26,411.7	32,571.7
Expenditure	29,687.8	32,762.6
Surplus (deficit)	(3,276.1)	(190.9)
Investment	12.0	22.0
Staff Level (FTEs)	25	25

The revenue comes partly from the Department. Other sources of special funds revenue include Loto-Québec, which contributes 5% of its net income in the previous fiscal year from the operation of government casinos and Loto-Québec's various commercial outlets. The deficit in 2005-2006 will be covered by the Fund's accumulated surplus as at March 31, 2005.

LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	937,679.6	962,308.1
Expenditure	947,939.0	972,917.7
Surplus (deficit)	(10,259.4)	(10,609.6)
Investment	25.0	25.0
Staff Level (FTEs)	2,413	2,442

This Fund was established on January 1, 1998 to finance the implementation and management of measures and programs related to public employment services. The changes in revenues and expenditures take into account the use of accumulated surpluses and transfers made during the year from program 2 "Financial Assistance Measures" related to the Vocational Integration Contract. The deficit in fiscal 2005-2006 will be covered by the Fund's accumulated surplus as at March 31, 2005.

FONDS QUÉBÉCOIS D'INITIATIVES SOCIALES

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	4,800.0	1,200.0
Expenditure	11,011.0	13,400.0
Surplus (deficit)	(6,211.0)	(12,200.0)
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	10	10

As part of its strategy to combat poverty and social exclusion and, more specifically as a result of passing the Act to combat poverty and social exclusion (R.S.Q. c. L-7) in December 2002, the Government established the Fonds québécois d'initiatives sociales. This new fund, in operation as of April 1, 2003, acquired the rights and assumed the obligations of the Fund to Combat Poverty through Re-integration into the Labour Market. For fiscal 2005-2006, expenditures of \$11 million are planned for the Fonds québécois d'initiatives sociales. The deficit in fiscal 2005-2006 will be covered by the Fund's accumulated surplus as at March 31, 2005.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND OF THE MINISTÈRE DE L'EMPLOI ET DE LA SOLIDARITÉ SOCIALE

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	38,942.5	41,947.4
Expenditure	38,942.5	41,947.4
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	35,000.0	35,000.0
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

This Fund was created on April 1, 1996 to finance the Department's information technology needs. Planned investments in 2005-2006 total \$35 million, or the same as in 2004-2005. The investments in 2005-2006 will go primarily towards implementing the Parental Insurance Plan. The cost of investments is generally depreciated over a period of three to five years, depending on whether the investment involves equipment purchases or system development. Depreciation expenses, financial charges and management expenses financed by the Department budget are estimated at \$38.9 million in 2005-2006, compared to \$41.9 million in 2004-2005.

FAMILLE, ÂÎNÉS ET CONDITION FÉMININE

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ The Ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine will invest \$1,568.7 million to meet day care requirements and enable as many children as possible to benefit from day care services, regardless of their backgrounds.
- ❑ The Department plans to complete the development of 200,000 subsidized places by March 31, 2006. Up to 189,380 subsidized places are available as at March 31, 2005.
- ❑ The Department will implement a government policy on the balance of work and family responsibilities aimed at ensuring a better balance between family, work and living environments for Quebecers.
- ❑ The Department intends to continue its efforts to improve the quality of educational day care services and plans continue implementing its plan to improve the quality of services.
- ❑ The Department will ensure the consistency and coordination of its governmental interventions with respect to seniors so as to encourage their social, civic, economic and professional contribution to the development of Québec.
- ❑ In 2005-2006, the Department will increase its support in order to intensify government action for:
 - The advancement of equality between women and men;
 - The protection of the rights of women;
 - The elimination of violence against women.
- ❑ The Public Curator intends to continue the significant reform that aims to ensure up-to-date and rigorous management of assets administered for the people it represents as well as citizens.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Department ensures the consistency of government interventions affecting families, seniors, the rights of women and equality between women and men.

The Department contributes to Québec's development by fostering:

- The wellness and fulfillment of families and the development of children;
- The social, civic, economic and professional contribution of seniors in Québec's development;
- Equality between women and men.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

Orientation 1: Create conditions adapted to the new realities of today's families

The development and strengthening of quality day care services that meet the needs of families

Day care services contribute to children's development and equality of opportunity by offering children an environment that stimulates their learning and helps them acquire skills that will enable them to succeed in school. Day care services are also a means for parents to balance the demands of work or studies and their parental responsibilities.

To meet day care needs and help as many children as possible benefit from day care, regardless of their background, the Department will continue to develop these services until 200,000 places are created by March 31, 2006.

The Department will also maintain its efforts to improve the quality of educational day care services and expects to implement a plan aimed at improving the quality of day care on an ongoing basis. This plan is otherwise known as a voluntary commitment to quality and is an experimental consent model. The consent guarantees and certifies, on the basis of definite criteria, that a day care service is committed to continually improving quality. Quality affects several areas including the care given to children, their safety, the educational program, the qualifications of day care service providers, the good governance of day care services and the sound management practices of public funds allocated to day care.

Objective: Increase the number of subsidized day care places to 200,000 by March 31, 2006.

Action envisioned: Make available 200,000 subsidized day care places.

Objective: Improve the quality of day care services.

Action envisioned: Implement the plan aimed at continual improvement of quality.

Objective: Modernize the Act respecting childcare centres and childcare services (R.S.Q., c. C-8.2) and its regulations, by fall 2005.

Action envisioned: Submit bills and proposed regulations.

Balancing family and work responsibilities

The attempt to balance family and work responsibilities is one of the main difficulties currently experienced by parents on a day-to-day basis. The expected increase in rates of activity among women and the aging of the population could increase the number of people who will need to assume responsibilities both at work and at home. Following its consultation in the fall of 2004 with its partners and the general population, the Department intends to take the major step of implementing a government policy on the balance of work and family. This objective of this policy is to assure a better balance between family, work and living environments.

Objective: Adopt a government policy on balancing work and family responsibilities in 2005-2006.

Actions envisioned: Submit a government policy on balancing work and family responsibilities.

Orientation 2: Encourage the full contribution of seniors in the development of Québec

Consultation and government action plan

During the regional forums held in the spring of 2004 and the Forum des générations held in the fall of 2004, the full participation of seniors in Québec's development re-emerged as a priority. In anticipation of this, the Minister of Families, Seniors and the Status of Women responsible for this portfolio has the mandate to propose measures that could be integrated into a government action plan. To reach its goals, the Minister put together a working team to support her in carrying out this mandate. The plan focuses on four key objectives:

- Change the way seniors are perceived in society;
- Intervene in the new demographic realities and document the impacts of these realities;
- Encourage and support the social, civic, economic and professional participation of seniors by creating inter-generational bridges enabling young people to benefit from the experience of seniors and enabling seniors to pass on their knowledge;
- Encourage and promote different kinds of contributions from seniors and future seniors and to assure consistency in this government activity.

Objective: Ensure that government interventions with respect to seniors are consistent and coordinated by carrying out a government action plan that promotes seniors' participation in Québec's development.

Action envisioned: Submit a government action plan.

Orientation 3: Strengthen government interventions aimed at promoting equality between women and men

Respect of the rights of women and progress towards equality between women and men

The government's action program, "Shine Among the Best", proposes a vision of Québec based on a declaration that equality between women and men will serve as a model. Up to now, almost everyone in the parliamentary committee has reaffirmed the importance of maintaining interventions to protect the rights of women and eliminate systemic discrimination.

Objective: Develop, in 2005, a policy of supporting the rights of women and the equality between women and men as well as a plan of action to implement this policy.

Action envisioned: Submit a policy and action plan for approval.

The elimination of violence against women

Regarding the implementation of a policy of intervention in cases of domestic violence, in December 2004, the government adopted and made public the 2004-2009 government action plan against domestic violence. Although considerable progress has been made over the past decade to counter domestic violence and sexual assault, continued action by the government remains necessary. Today, there is still no social group, status or financial situation that can offer protection from violence. Over the next few years, the efforts of the eight signatory departments of action plans to counter domestic violence and sexual assault will be intensified in order to improve the safety of victims of violence, strengthen the services of assistance and protection, and provide better guidance to aggressors.

Objective: Continue implementing action plans to counter domestic violence and sexual assault and to carry out an awareness campaign.

Actions envisioned: Submit a comprehensive report on the implementation, by government departments and agencies, of measures in the first action plan.

Submit a preliminary report on the implementation, by government departments and agencies, of the measures in the 2004-2009 government action plan against domestic violence.

Orientation 4: Modernize the department's interventions

Renewed and simplified delivery of services

The Department intends to make the most of its cooperation with its partners by taking advantage of the benefits offered by technology. The electronic delivery of services will therefore simplify the exchange of information and data with day care services, which will also be able to post their financial and annual activities reports online.

Objective: Simplify the exchanges of information and data with day care services.

Action envisioned: Produce annual financial reports online.

Planned management of human resources and development of skills

The Government's modernization plan attributes special importance to human resources since public service personnel are the main architects of this modernization. In anticipation of this, the government must focus on planning and developing its human resources.

Objective: Ensure the accessibility and quality of services while modernizing the benefits of the services and preparing for personnel turnover.

Action envisioned: Submit a multi-year human resources plan.

Objective: Develop a human resources management approach based on the development and maintenance of skills.

Action envisioned: Implement a skill management policy that integrates measures for personnel turnover and the transfer of expertise.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The 2005-2006 budget for the "Famille, Aînés et Condition féminine" portfolio is set at \$1,634.4 million, representing an increase of \$122.8 million as compared to the 2004-2005 expenditure budget.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Planning, Research and Administration	22,222.1	1,570.5	20,651.6	20,317.0
2. Assistance Measures for Families	1,568,661.3	121,352.5	1,447,308.8	1,437,558.0
3. Condition of the elderly	2,750.2	75.3	2,674.9	2,626.1
4. Status of Women	7,008.3	(4.5)	7,012.8	6,924.8
5. Public Curator	33,760.3	(206.5)	33,966.8	32,660.3
Total	1,634,402.2	122,787.3	1,511,614.9	1,500,086.2
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	1,106	(5)	1,111	—

Note: A rectification was made in order to present the expenditure budget and probable expenditures for 2004-2005 on the basis of the same information as 2005-2006. This rectification leads to a decrease of \$396.9 million in the "Famille, Aînés et Condition féminine" portfolio in 2004-2005 to take into account the "Support for Children" measure which is offset by budget revenues as of January 1, 2005.

Program 1: Planning, Research and Administration

The objective of this program is twofold. The first objective is to carry out research and to draw up and evaluate policies that encourage the development of families, children and seniors in cooperation with government departments and agencies. The second objective of this program is to plan, direct and coordinate the administrative activities that are essential to the management of programs.

This program's expenditure budget is being increased from \$20.7 million to \$22.2 million in 2005-2006, representing an increase of \$1.5 million. This change is mainly due to carry-over appropriations and the depreciation of projects related to computer technology.

Program 2: Assistance Measures for Families

This program ensures financing of the management of services to family and children. It develops and promotes access to quality educational day care services and ensures that they are funded. In addition, its purpose is to provide funding for the debt service of the early childcare centres and the pension plans for employees working in the field of childcare services. This program also provides funding to community organizations that work with families as part of their overall mission. Finally, it contributes to the funding of child support management and the operations of the Conseil de la famille et de l'enfance.

The expenditure budget for this program is increasing from \$1,447.3 million to \$1,568.7 million in 2005-2006, representing an increase of \$121.4 million. This change is mainly due to the appropriations required for the annualization of the 11,532 subsidized places that were created in day care centres during the 2004-2005 fiscal year, as well as the cost of creating new places for 2005-2006.

Program 3: Condition of the elderly

This program provides funding for the Conseil des aînés and the Secrétariat aux aînés to support the participation of seniors in Québec society in view of an equitable Québec for all generations. The expenditure budget for this program is comparable to fiscal 2004-2005 budget levels.

Program 4: Status of Women

The objective of this program is to promote equality and respect for the rights and status of women. This program aims to ensure the coordination and development of government policies and activities related to the Status of Women program. The expenditure budget for this program is comparable to fiscal 2004-2005 budget levels.

Program 5: Public Curator

The objective of this program is to ensure the protection of citizens declared incapacitated as well as representation of these citizens in matters of their rights and assets. This program also aims to return unclaimed assets to beneficiaries or the government. Its expenditure budget is comparable to fiscal 2004-2005 budget levels.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	18,170.5	10,390.9
Loans, Investments and Advances	2.0	2.0

The capital budget is increasing from \$10.4 million up to \$18.2 million in 2005-2006. The \$7.8 million increase in fixed assets is mainly due to investments required for systems used to manage day care services. Of this amount, \$6.8 million will be used to fund information technology projects.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCIES

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Conseil de la famille et de l'enfance	1,132.9	1,073.1
Conseil des aînés	727.0	688.5
Conseil du statut de la femme	4,412.7	4,360.0
Public Curator	33,760.3	33,966.8

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ The annual expenditure management plan of the Ministère des Finances for the 2005-2006 fiscal year is based on the following orientations:
 - Continue progress in the area of public finances;
 - Develop a fiscal environment which stimulates economic growth while meeting the taxpayers' needs;
 - Correct fiscal imbalance between the federal government and the provinces;
 - Modernize the supervision of the financial sector and legal persons;
 - Develop more effective new methods and internal management.
- ❑ Moreover, the Department's budget allocation for the 2005-2006 fiscal year will be reduced by approximately \$5 million in relation to 2004-2005.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Act respecting the Ministère des Finances (R.S.Q., c. M-24.01) confers on the Minister the mission to promote economic development and support the growth of the economy, investment and employment.

For these purposes, the Department advises and supports the Minister and the Government in matters of public finance, leading it to formulate and propose policies in the economic, fiscal, budgetary, financial and accounting fields, as well as financial assistance and fiscal incentive measures.

As a central body, the Department has an advisory role with the Minister and the Government and ensures implementation of government decisions in financial matters. In addition to monitoring the government's financial position and the state of the Québec economy, the Department performs the following functions:

- Prepare the Budget Speech and deliver it to the National Assembly;
- Establish and propose the overall level of expenditures to the Government;
- Propose orientations to the Government on revenue matters, and advise the Government on its investments;
- Monitor, control and manage all matters related to State finances;
- Manage the consolidated revenue fund and the public debt;
- Cause of the public accounts and other financial reports of the Government;
- Develop policies and orientations on capital expenditures, in conjunction with the Conseil du trésor, and establish the level of financial commitments inherent in the renewal of the collective agreements;
- Develop and propose to the Conseil du trésor the accounting policies which must be followed by the departments and bodies, the rules respecting payments made out of the consolidated revenue fund and the rules governing the collection and management of State revenue.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The information on the programs is specified in the budget plan in the next section. The budgetary choices for the 2005-2006 fiscal year are presented on the basis of the following five major orientations:

Allocation of Budgetary Resources by Orientation

ORIENTATION	Expenditure Budget	
	%	(\$M)
Continue progress in the area of public finances	37.8	69.9
Bank charges (program 2, element 3)		10.4
Various program elements: 594 FTEs		59.5
Develop a fiscal environment which stimulates economic growth while meeting the taxpayers' needs	52.9	98.0
Provision for revenue initiatives (program 2, element 6)		87.5
Various program elements: 105 FTEs		10.5
Correct fiscal imbalance between the federal government and the provinces	0.6	1.1
Various program elements: 11 FTEs		1.1
Modernize the supervision of the financial sector and legal persons	7.0	13.0
Fiscal and financial affairs and institutional research (program 2, element 5)		9.7
Various program elements: 33 FTEs		3.3
Develop more effective new methods and internal management	1.7	3.1
Various program elements: 31 FTEs		3.1
Total =	100.0	185.1

These figures exclude the following program elements:

- The Enterprise Registrar (program 1, element 2):	\$14.8 million
- Institut de la statistique du Québec (program 1, element 3):	\$13.9 million
	\$28.7 million

Orientation 1: Continue progress in the area of public finances

Percentage of budgetary resources: 37.8%

Objectives:

The objectives relating to public finances are divided according to three lines of intervention: balanced budget; financing and debt management; discipline and transparency.

Most of the Department's staff levels are allocated to this orientation because it encompasses the Department's central and recurring activities: preparation of the government's budget, financing of public sector operations, debt management at optimum cost, and publication of public accounts and the quarterly presentation of financial transactions of the Government.

Actions envisioned:

- Preparation and implementation of a fiscal pact with the municipalities;
- Participation in the working committee for the sustainability of the health and social services system;
- Participation in meetings with foreign investors and credit agencies;
- Publication of the public accounts and quarterly presentations of financial transactions of the Government;
- Implementation of the budget process in view of the 2006-2007 Budget.

Orientation 2: Develop a fiscal environment which stimulates economic growth while meeting the taxpayers' needs

Percentage of budgetary resources: 52.9%.

Objectives:

The objectives relating to the fiscal environment are divided according to three lines of intervention: relieving the personal tax burden, fiscal competitiveness of businesses, and fairness and simplification of the tax system.

The staff levels for this orientation are primarily allocated to two sectors: Politiques économiques et fiscales as well as Droit fiscal et fiscalité. However, the resources allocated to this issue represent nearly half of the Department's budgetary resources, particularly due to the *Provision for Revenue Initiatives*, which seeks to fund projects to combat tax evasion.

Actions envisioned:

- Continuation of the efforts to counter tax evasion, with the target of recovering \$400 million for the 2005-2006 fiscal year;
- Review of corporate taxation to ensure business competitiveness;
- Evaluation of personal taxation to promote the incentive to work;
- Determination of measurements of the impact of taxation on economic activity by means of the general equilibrium model.

Orientation 3: Correct fiscal imbalance between the federal government and the provinces

Percentage of budgetary resources: 0.6%.

Objectives:

The objectives relating to federal-provincial relations are divided according to three lines of intervention: shared-cost programs, such as health and education, the equalization program and Québec's leadership in the negotiations between the provinces and the federal government, particularly within the framework of the Council of the Federation.

The Department works in collaboration with the Secrétariat aux Affaires intergouvernementales canadiennes on issues involving federal-provincial negotiations and, more specifically those pertaining to fiscal imbalance, which has major financial issues at stake for Québec.

Actions envisioned:

- Participation by the Minister of Finance on the Federal subcommittee on fiscal imbalance of the Standing Committee on Finance;
- Publication of a booklet explaining the issue of federal transfers and fiscal imbalance;
- Monitoring of the work of the federal Panel of Experts, which has the objective of reviewing the terms of calculation of equalization;
- Participation by the Department in the work of the fiscal imbalance committee of the Council of the Federation.

Orientation 4: Modernize the supervision of the financial sector and legal persons

Percentage of budgetary resources: 7.0%.

Objectives:

The objectives relating to the modernization of the financial sector are divided among three lines of intervention: application of a new legislative framework to improve investor confidence, harmonization of securities regulation with the other provinces and review of the supervision of legal persons and associations.

Actions envisioned:

- Establishment of a passport system of securities regulation between the provinces and territories: adoption of the necessary regulation;
- Participation in the consultations via the securities regulators of all the participating jurisdictions;
- Implementation of a communications campaign designed to prove the benefits of the proposed passport approach.

Orientation 5: Develop more effective new methods and internal management

Percentage of budgetary resources: 1.7%.

Objectives:

The objectives relating to modernization of the State are divided according to four lines of intervention: examination of new modes of financing of public services and infrastructure, the mandate and rules of governance of economically-oriented government corporations, the development of e-government and forward-looking human resources management.

Actions envisioned:

- Preparation of the capital expenditure plan of the Société de financement des infrastructures locales, with the Ministère des Transports and the Ministère des Affaires municipales et des Régions;
- Continuation of the work with the economically and commercially-oriented government corporations, whose target for 2005-2006 is to regain their profitability;
- Collaboration in the online offering of the transactional component of the Government's Business Services Portal, with the other departments involved in this project;
- Preparation of the Department's forward-looking human resources management plan.

3. BUDGET PLAN**EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM**

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Department Administration	58,052.4	(2,617.7)	60,670.1	60,831.7
2. Budget and Taxation Policy, Economic Analysis and Administration of Government Financial and Accounting Activities	155,672.8	(2,346.8)	158,019.6	87,943.5
3. Debt Service and interest on the Retirement Plans Account	6,995,000.0	127,000.0	6,868,000.0	6,868,000.0
Total	7,208,725.2	122,035.5	7,086,689.7	7,016,775.2
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	985	(17)	1,002	—

Note: The Budget and Taxation Policy, Economic Analysis and Administration of Government Financial and Accounting Activities program contains a provision that allows transfers to other government programs for which probable expenditures are increased by that amount. Probable expenditure in this program is decreased due to such transfers.

The \$122 million net increase in the 2005-2006 total expenditure budget in relation to 2004-2005 is mainly explained by an increase in expenditures under the Debt Service and Interest on the Retirement Plans Account Program.

Program 1: Department Administration

The objective of this program is to ensure the administration of the Department and central services concerning planning, coordination, public affairs and management support. It is also intended to ensure the administration of a government register of sole proprietorships, partnerships and legal persons. Finally, it is to provide statistical information on the situation of Québec.

The \$2.6 million reduction in the expenditure budget is explained by the application of various spending reduction measures.

Program 2: Budget and Taxation Policy, Economic Analysis and Administration of Government Financial and Accounting Activities

The objective of this program is to handle the administration of the Government's financial and accounting activities, develop orientations on taxation and budgetary matters, and perform economic analyses and institutional research.

This program's envelop decreases by \$2.3 million. This variation is primarily due to the measures concerning the Fiscal and Financial Affairs and Institutional Research Program.

Program 3: Debt Service and Interest on the Retirement Plans Account

The objective of this program is to fund interest payments on the direct debt and interest spending on the retirement plans account.

The program's expenditures, which total \$6,995 million, are broken down into two elements:

- Direct Debt Service: The appropriations required to handle the cost of government borrowing are entered under this element of the program; \$4,319 million
- Interest on Retirement Plan Accounts: The appropriations required to handle the cost of interest on the actuarial obligation of government retirement plans less investment income from the Retirement plans sinking fund are entered under this element of the program. \$2,676 million

In relation to the 2004-2005 expenditures, the 2005-2006 expenditures allocated to this program increase by \$127 million, mainly due to the forecast interest rate growth.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	8,951.1	7,432.7
Loans, Investments and Advances	5.0	5.0

Planned investments will primarily be used to upgrade computer systems and continue the computer development project related to revising Québec's register of enterprises. The \$1.5 million increase is primarily explained by the addition of computer development projects.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCY AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Budget-funded Agency		
The Enterprise Registrar	14,772.2	15,918.2
Extrabudgetary Agencies		
Autorité des marchés financiers	68,923.2	68,718.0
Bureau de décision et de révision en valeurs mobilières	2,044.2	1,848.7
Institut de la statistique du Québec	22,983.6	23,261.4
Société de financement des infrastructures locales du Québec	190,300.0	1,100.0

SPECIAL FUNDS

FINANCING FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	472,913.9	404,747.4
Expenditure	457,534.5	379,238.6
Surplus (deficit)	15,379.4	25,508.8
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	17	17

The Financing Fund, constituted by the Act respecting the Ministère des Finances (R.S.Q., c. M-24.01), is designed to provide financing and other financial services for agencies included within the government's reporting entity such as special funds and government corporations.

The increase in the fund's volume and, to a lesser degree, the expected interest rate growth in 2005-2006, essentially explain the growth of revenues and expenditures. The impact of the expected interest rate growth in 2005-2006, as well as the higher issue fees in 2005-2006 than those incurred in 2004-2005, mainly explain the greater increase in expenditures compared to revenues in 2005-2006.

HORSE-RACING INDUSTRY FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	13,380.0	13,118.0
Expenditure	13,380.0	13,118.0
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The Fund is constituted by the Act respecting the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (R.S.Q., c. M-14). Its purpose is to support the horse-racing industry. It is primarily made up of amounts disbursed by the Ministère du Revenu representing the proceeds of the tax on pari-mutuel betting. These amounts are distributed among the Société du cheval de course and the racing permit holders covered by the Act respecting racing (R.S.Q., c. C-72.1).

SPECIAL OLYMPIC FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	80,800.0	76,400.0
Expenditure	80,800.0	76,236.4
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	163.6
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The Special Olympic Fund was constituted in 1976 by the Act to constitute a special Olympic fund (R.S.Q. 1976, c. 14). The Fund and the revenue it derives from the special tax on tobacco are allocated exclusively to paying off the principal and interest on loans taken out by the Régie des installations olympiques and to completing the Olympic installations.

FONDS DU CENTRE FINANCIER DE MONTRÉAL

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	1,277.5	1,820.4
Expenditure	1,545.8	1,270.4
Surplus (deficit)	(268.3)	550.0
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The Fund was constituted by the Act respecting International financial centres (R.S.Q., c. C-8.3). The Fund's revenue serves to finance activities to promote and develop Montréal as an international financial centre. The fund is financed via the allocation of \$0.5 million in budget appropriations from the Budget and Taxation Policy, Economic Analysis and Administration of Government Financial and Accounting Activities Program and from \$0.8 million in fees levied on international financial centres.

IMMIGRATION ET COMMUNAUTÉS CULTURELLES

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ The 2005-2006 expenditure budget for the Immigration et Communautés culturelles portfolio totals \$99.3 million, with \$98.6 million allocated for the Department and \$0.7 million for the Conseil des relations interculturelles.
- ❑ The Department's share will go to fulfill commitments in the areas of immigration, integration, francization, intercultural relations, and regionalization.
- ❑ Achieving the objectives of the 2005-2007 three-year immigration plan, improving francization services, and maintaining the ability to carry out the undertakings made in the *Shared Values, Common Interests* action plan remain the Department's budgetary priorities for 2005-2006.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Department's mission is to:

- Promote immigrating to Québec, select immigrants, and facilitate the linguistic, social and economic integration of newcomers to Québec society;
- Cultivate a society open to pluralism and conducive to intercultural rapprochement.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The portfolio's 2005-2006 expenditure budget totals \$99.3 million, with \$98.6 million allocated for the Department and \$0.7 million for the Conseil des relations interculturelles. The Department's share is intended to support two budgetary choices.

First budgetary choice: Attaining the quotas set in Québec's Immigration Plan for 2005 and implementing the Shared Values, Common Interests Action Plan

This budgetary choice endeavours to recognize the strategic contribution immigration and cultural communities make to Québec's development and prosperity. It is divided among the following four strategic orientations:

- **Orientation 1:** Stimulate an adapted immigration offering and select applicants who meet Québec's needs
- **Orientation 2:** Support the integration of newcomers and foster stable entry into the job market
- **Orientation 3:** Promote citizens' increased understanding of diversity and contribute to extending its reach
- **Orientation 4:** Encourage the commitment of local and regional groups in the areas of immigration, integration, and intercultural relations

Second budgetary choice: Improving the quality of public services

In addition to striving to improve the quality of services for its clientele, this budgetary choice represents a contribution to modernization of the government and can be expressed by the following strategic orientation:

- **Orientation 5:** Modernize service delivery and provide a motivating work environment

The Department is allocating \$78.8 million for its first budgetary choice, namely attainment of the quotas set in for 2005 and implementation of the *Shared Values, Common Interests Action Plan*.

Therefore, the basic budget for activities aimed at stimulating an adapted immigration offering and selecting applicants who meet Québec's needs is \$4.4 million. The additional revenue from the net voted appropriation¹ will make it possible to cover additional spending on these activities, maintain the level and quality of services, and attain the objectives of the 2005-2007 three-year immigration plan.

The Department plans to spend a total of \$64.9 million on supporting the integration of newcomers and fostering stable entry into the job market. This amount breaks down as follows:

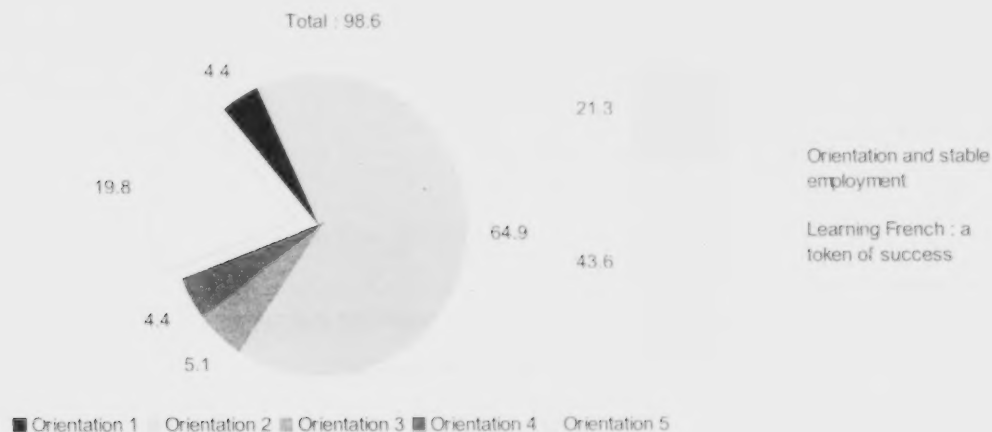
- \$21.3 million to orient immigrants and guide them in their integration efforts, primarily with a view to fostering their employment;
- \$43.6 million for francization activities, which will improve the offer of services in this area.

The Department intends to spend \$5.1 million on the aims of fostering a better understanding of diversity and contributing to its flourishing. This envelope will help encourage intercultural rapprochement and dialogue, as well as the struggle against discrimination.

Finally, the Department is continuing to assign priority to the activities undertaken to encourage commitments by local and regional groups in the areas of immigration, integration and intercultural relations with a \$4.4-million allocation for 2005-2006.

Moreover, a \$19.8-million budget is earmarked for the second budgetary choice of modernizing service delivery, creating a motivating work environment and, in general, improving the quality of services for its clientele. This sum also covers all of the Department's centralized services.

Expenditure budget breakdown by orientation (\$M)



¹ The revenue associated with the net voted appropriation comes from the application fees charged in the immigration selection process.

The next section lays out the main strategic objectives that the Department is specifically pursuing in fiscal 2005-2006 for each of the two budgetary choices along with the actions it plans to take to attain them.

First budgetary choice: Attaining the quotas set in Québec's Immigration Plan for 2005 and implementing the Shared Values, Common Interests Action Plan

Objective:

Stimulate an offer of permanent and temporary immigration based on the needs of the Québec City area, greater Montréal, and the regions.

Actions envisioned:

- Issue between 38,700 and 40,300 Québec selection certificates in 2005 categories subjected to selection by Québec, namely:
 - from 35,600 to 36,800 to applicants selected for their economic contribution, namely skilled workers and business people;
 - from 2,400 to 2,600 to refugees and people in similar situations.
- Implement the 2005-2006 promotion and recruitment plan;
- Continue promotional efforts abroad to attract more foreign students;
- Toughen up measures aimed at prevention and control of the activities of immigration consultants;
- Amend and implement certain provisions of the *Regulation respecting the selection of foreign nationals* [I-0.2, r. 5]: selection grid for skilled workers, group sponsorship of refugees, duration of sponsorship for young adults, definition of entrepreneur immigrants and control of immigration consultants;
- Set up a mechanism for matching labour market demand and immigrant selection;
- Increase prospecting trips and business immigrant selection in Québec as well as orientation and guidance services;
- Implement measures aimed at improving the program for live-in caregivers;
- Ensure that commitments in the areas of family sponsorship and humanitarian immigration are respected.

Objective:

Accelerate and personalize the immigrant integration process while facilitation accreditation of diplomas and skills acquired abroad.

Actions envisioned:

- Offer personal guidance for immigrants through the use of a logbook;
- Support immigrants in their efforts to have their qualifications recognized;
- Back the efforts of the working group on accreditation for diplomas and skills of persons educated or trained abroad;
- Establish the Aid Program for the Employment Integration of Immigrants and Visible Minorities.

Objective:

Accelerate the learning of French by immigrants and reduce waiting times.

Actions envisioned:

- Ensure diligent access to francization services to enable swift integration into Québec society;
- Intensify francization services and review the requirements with a view to fostering accelerated learning;
- Use the waiting period in the country of origin to encourage immigration applicants to learn or perfect their knowledge of French;
- Adapt the teaching of French to immigrants' characteristics, needs and living and working conditions, mainly by developing custom courses and diversifying course formulas;
- Reach out more to those with insufficient knowledge of French.

Objective:

Increase openness to diversity by encouraging intercultural contact and dialogue.

Actions envisioned:

- Support cultural communities in finding solutions suited to their needs;
- Encourage and support the development of projects aimed at promoting civil relations, intercultural rapprochement, and openness to diversity;
- Develop and deliver sensitivity training programs for employers in the areas of communication and negotiations in an intercultural context and managing diversity in the workplace.

Objective:

Foster taking immigration into account as a development factor by drawing up regional action plans and signing agreements with regional conferences of elected officers and municipalities.

Action envisioned:

- Accelerate the signature of immigration regionalization agreements with regional conferences of elected officers and municipalities, and adopt regional action plans.

Second budgetary choice: Improving the quality of public services

Objective:

Improve services for the clientele by prioritizing online ones in order to contribute to the establishment of e-Government.

Action envisioned:

- Make a line of new services available to the clientele.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The new Department's responsibilities have been refocused on objectives related to immigration, integration, francization, intercultural relations, and regionalization. Thus the 2005-2006 expenditure budget for the portfolio is \$99.3 million, or \$5.6 million less than in 2004-2005 for an equivalent mission.

This variance is mostly the result of a continuation in 2005-2006 of the streamlining measures introduced in 2004-2005 in the areas of administration, infrastructures and service organization – measures that will nonetheless enable the level and quality of the Department's services to be maintained.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Immigration, Integration and Cultural Communities	98,595.2	(5,597.2)	104,192.4	106,223.4
2. Organization Reporting to the Minister	695.4	—	695.4	732.0
Total	99,290.6	(5,597.2)	104,887.8	106,955.4
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	1,005	(13)	1,018	—

Program 1: Immigration, Integration and Cultural Communities

All activities associated with the objectives related to immigration, integration, francization, intercultural relations, and regionalization, including ancillary activities such as planning, research, administration and centralized support, have been brought under this umbrella program in 2005-2006. The \$5.6-million reduction in the portfolio's expenditure budget falls entirely under this program. In 2005-2006 the Department will focus the requested effort at budget cutbacks on supervision, work organization, and centralized support services as a contribution to the government's attempt to balance the budget, while maintaining the level and quality of its services.

Program 2: Organization Reporting to the Minister

This program is intended to provide the Department with insight into special problems related to integration and intercultural relations. In view of its special mission, the budget for the Conseil des relations interculturelles remains entirely the same in 2005-2006.

CAPITAL BUDGET

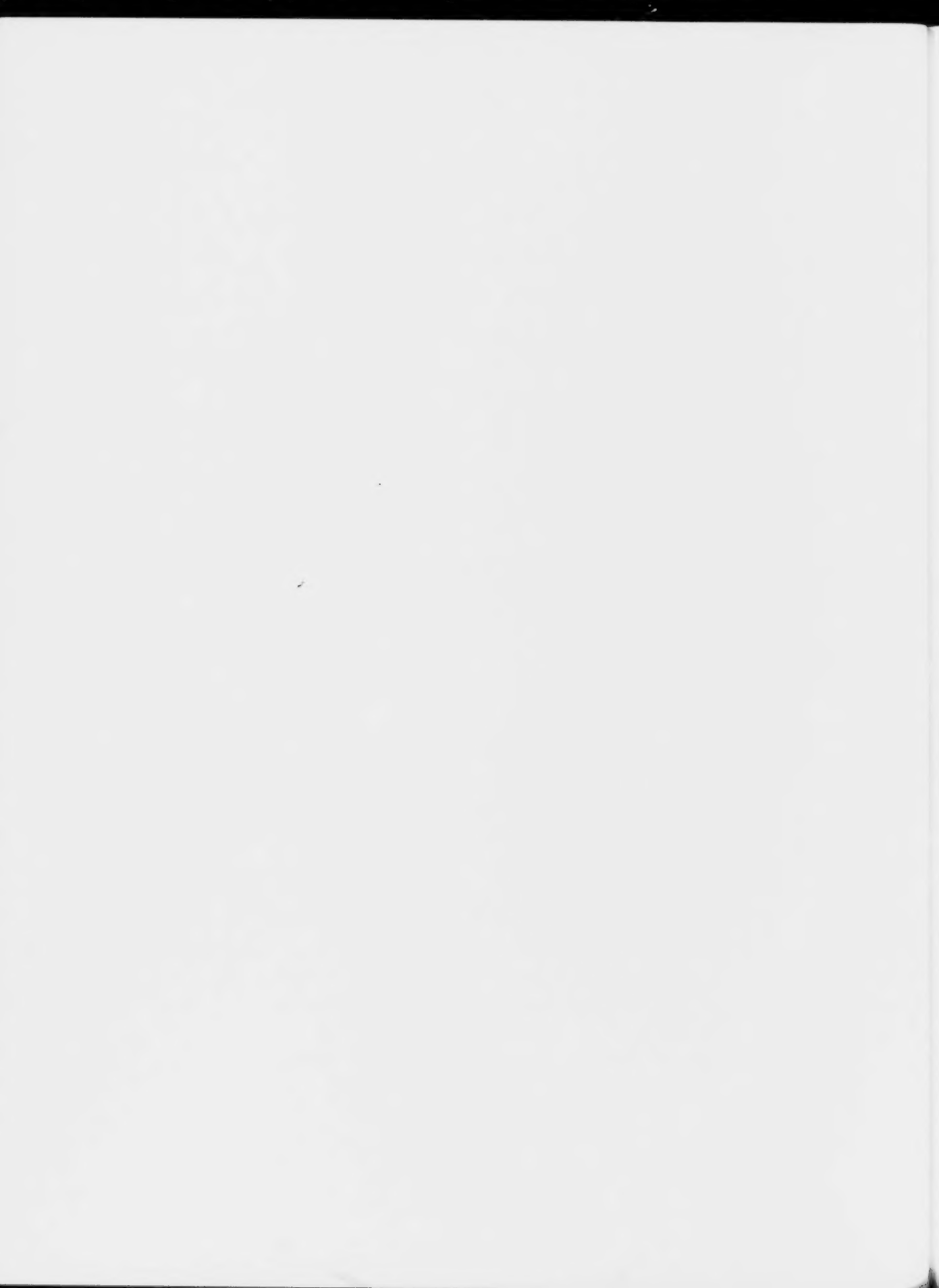
	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	5,531.0	3,014.0
Loans, Investments and Advances	184.0	185.0

The capital budget is primarily used by the Department for renewing the computer base and for developing computer resources.

The budget increase planned for 2005-2006 will enable the Department to complete design of the new online francization service for immigrants. Moreover, the budget will enable upgrading the technological infrastructure as well as adapting the corporate system to electronic service delivery for its clientele and partners.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCY

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Conseil des relations interculturelles	695.4	695.4



JUSTICE

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Ministère de la Justice will be at the centre of major organizational decisions regarding the creation of a position of Director of Public Prosecutions, the organization of municipal justice and the territorial organization of judicial services. On the technological front, in accordance with the government orientations, the Department will work to develop and go online with the Justice portal.
- More concretely, specific factors will have an upward influence on the 2005-2006 expenditure budget:
 - The appointment of presiding justices of the peace made necessary following the adoption of Bill 50, the Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and other legislative provisions as regards the status of justices of the peace (S.Q. 2004, c. 12);
 - The increase in rents following delivery of the Montréal and Trois-Rivières courthouse projects and the Ernest-Cormier building which accommodates the Court of Appeal;
 - Funding of the additional needs at the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse regarding modernization of operational processes and the addition of handicapped persons as a group covered by the Act respecting equal access to employment in public bodies (R.S.Q., c. A-2.01).

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

This document concerns the Department, the Conseil de la justice administrative, the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse, the Office de la protection du consommateur and the extrabudgetary agencies subsidized by the Department, namely the Commission des services juridiques, the Fonds d'aide aux recours collectifs and the Tribunal administratif du Québec.

The Department's mission is to assure the rule of law in Québec society and to maintain the trustworthiness and integrity of the justice system in Québec, so as to promote respect for individual and collective rights.

For this purpose, the Minister of Justice assumes the roles and responsibilities devolving on him under the Act respecting the Ministère de la Justice (R.S.Q., c. M-19), notably by exercising the functions of administrator of justice, Attorney General, legal adviser, registrar and Notary General of Québec.

He provides access to a high-quality justice system and offers his support to the judiciary as a whole. He oversees the sound administration of public affairs and advises the government on the legality of its actions. He supports it in preparing laws and regulations. Moreover, in his role as Attorney General, he represents the State in civil actions before the courts or in connection with certain public inquiries and undertakes proceedings in criminal and penal cases.

In his capacity as registrar, the Minister ensures the registration and retention of the documents entrusted to him, the keeping of the Register of Personal and Movable Real Rights, the Register of Lobbyists and the Register of Civil Status and the management of keys and certificates within the context of the Government Public Key Infrastructure.

The mission of the Conseil de la justice administrative is to support public confidence in administrative justice with respect to the Tribunal administratif du Québec, the Commission des lésions professionnelles and the Régie du logement.

The mission of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse is to enforce the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms and ensure its promotion. It also administers the Act respecting equal access to employment in public bodies and enforces the rights recognized by the Youth Protection Act (R.S.Q., c. P-34.1).

The mission of the Office de la protection du consommateur is to protect the rights of consumers and enforce the Consumer Protection Act (R.S.Q., c. P-40).

The terms of reference of the Commission des services juridiques are to ensure that legal aid is provided, to the extent called for by law and regulations, to individuals who are financially eligible for it.

The purpose of the Fonds d'aide aux recours collectifs is to help fund class actions and to disseminate information regarding the exercise of such actions.

Finally, the Tribunal administratif du Québec has the authority to rule on appeals filed against administrative decisions rendered by various public administration authorities such as the departments, régies, commissions, municipalities and health care institutions.

The extrabudgetary agencies, the Office des professions du Québec and the Société québécoise d'information juridique, which are under the Minister's responsibility and for which the budget does not appear in the 2005-2006 Expenditure Budget, are not covered in this document, because they are funded from the contributions requested from the members, with respect to the Office des professions du Québec, and by the sale of goods and services, in the case of the Société québécoise d'information juridique.

The role of the Office des professions du Québec is to see to it that all the professional orders protect the public. When it deems appropriate, it suggests that new orders be formed, that existing orders be merged or dissolved, or that changes be made to the laws that govern them.

The Société québécoise d'information juridique has the mandate to promote research, processing and development of legal information with a view to improving its quality and accessibility for the community's benefit.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The Department has adopted the vision of a justice system that is closer to the public and more accessible, efficient and transparent. In the objective of adapting its services and sustaining the credibility of the court system, important questions will be raised from the structural and organization standpoint. However, the resources supporting the achievement of this objective did not influence the 2005-2006 budgetary choices. The implementation of the orientations which will be adopted, regarding the territorial organization of judicial services, the organization of municipal justice and the creation of a position of Director of Public Prosecutions could influence the 2006-2007 budgetary choices and the manner in which goods and services are delivered.

Moreover, for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, certain budgetary adjustments were necessary to fund the needs arising from the implementation or amendment of certain legislation or regulations, including the Act to amend the Courts of Justice Act and other legislative provisions as regards the status of justices of the peace. Certain adjustments were also required, in view of the increase in rents following delivery of the Montréal and Trois-Rivières courthouse projects and the Ernest-Cormier building accommodating the Court of Appeal, the financing of certain criminal cases, and the needs expressed by the Commission des services juridiques and by the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse.

Finally, the Department will see to the smooth integration of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse, the Office de la protection du consommateur and the functions devolving on the Registrar of Civil Status. It should be remembered that these bodies were transferred to the Department in February 2005.

3. BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Judicial Activity	75,582.8	4,144.3	71,438.5	72,588.6
2. Administration of Justice	323,199.3	3,421.9	319,777.4	328,162.5
3. Administrative Justice	10,892.8	(173.7)	11,066.5	11,051.6
4. Assistance to Persons Brought before the Courts	195,275.4	10,587.3	184,688.1	213,769.9
5. Protection Organizations Reporting to the Minister	7,536.1	(101.0)	7,637.1	7,646.1
Total	612,486.4	17,878.8	594,607.6	633,218.7
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	3,706	(36)	3,742	—

Program 1: Judicial Activity

This program enables the courts of the various jurisdictions to exercise their judicial powers and the various related jurisdictional functions, be it rendering a judgment or promoting the resolution of disputes through judicial conciliation. It ensures that the rules of ethics that apply to the Bench are upheld, provides advanced courses for judges and gives them the administrative support they require. It also evaluates the remuneration, the pension plan and other employment benefits of the judges of the Court of Québec and the municipal courts and presents recommendations to the government. This program's expenditure budget amounts to \$75.6 million in 2005-2006, up \$4.1 million from 2004-2005, in order to provide for funding needs related to the establishment of presiding justices of the peace under Bill 50.

Program 2: Administration of Justice

The objective of this program is to provide administrative support necessary for the operation of the courts of justice and registry offices, provide legal, legislative and regulatory support for all government activities and ensure the application of the Criminal Code and penal laws in Québec.

This program's expenditure budget amounts to \$323.2 million in 2005-2006, up \$3.4 million from 2004-2005. This variation is attributable, among other reasons, to the progression in their salary scales of the jurists and Attorney General's prosecutors, the funding required for the addition of positions agreed in the last negotiations, the increase in the rental budget allocation required following the work carried out in certain courthouses, and, finally, the transfers of positions and appropriations from other departments or agencies.

Program 3: Administrative Justice

This program represents the Department's contribution to the funding of the Tribunal administratif du Québec. The function of the Tribunal, in the cases specified in the Act respecting administrative justice (R.S.Q., c. J-3), is to rule on appeals of decisions rendered by a government administrative authority or by a decentralized authority. This program also includes the Conseil de la justice administrative, an agency concerned with professional ethics, which oversees the members of the various administrative tribunals.

The department's contribution to the funding of this program amounts to \$10.9 million in 2005-2006.

Program 4: Assistance to Persons Brought before the Courts

The objective of this program is to assure legal, financial and social assistance to low-income and economically disadvantaged individuals and to children and families faced with social problems related to justice. It is also meant to ensure financial compensation to persons who have been injured as a result of good citizenship and to crime victims. The assistance offered translates into legal aid, class-action assistance, good citizenship assistance and compensation to crime victims. Moreover, through the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse, it sees to the enforcement of the Québec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms.

This program's expenditure budget is established at \$195.3 million in 2005-2006, up \$10.6 million from 2004-2005. This variation primarily results from an increase in the budget allocated to legal aid and compensation to crime victims.

The \$29.1 million variance between the 2004-2005 expenditure budget and the probable expenditure is essentially due to the increase in compensation paid to crime victims due to the increase in clientele and the proposal regarding the working conditions of permanent legal aid lawyers.

Program 5: Protection Organizations Reporting to the Minister

This purpose of this program, administered by the Office de la protection du consommateur, is to ensure the protection of the public's rights regarding the administration of the Consumer Protection Act. This protection translates into the receiving and processing of consumer complaints, appraisal of the goods or services offered to consumers, and information offered to the population regarding consumer protection.

This program's expenditure budget is established at \$7.5 million for 2005-2006.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	21,550.5	28,928.5
Loans, Investments and Advances	46,712.3	43.1

The fixed assets budget for 2005-2006 is \$21.6 million. This budget will mainly be allocated to the implementation of certain applications provided for in the Integrated Justice Information System and the continuation of systems development projects at the Bureau des infractions et amendes, primarily the offence and fine collection management system. Regarding the loans, investments and advances budget, the increase is required to enable the Commission des services juridiques and the Tribunal administratif du Québec to comply with the generally accepted accounting principles issued by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCIES AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Budget-funded Agencies		
Comité de la rémunération des juges de la Cour du Québec et des cours municipales	200.0	200.0
Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse	13,957.8	12,957.8
Conseil de la justice administrative	373.9	325.5
Conseil de la magistrature	893.6	893.6
Office de la protection du consommateur	7,536.1	7,637.1
Tribunal des droits de la personne	193.8	190.7
Extrabudgetary Agencies		
Commission des services juridiques	129,266.6	128,285.4
Fonds d'aide aux recours collectifs	1,488.3	1,429.5
Office des professions du Québec	6,314.8	6,449.0
Société québécoise d'information juridique	12,319.2	11,313.0
Tribunal administratif du Québec	28,942.3	27,813.8

SPECIAL FUNDS

FONDS D'AIDE AUX VICTIMES D'ACTES CRIMINELS

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	12,905.5	13,020.3
Expenditure	12,902.5	7,474.5
Surplus (deficit)	3.0	5,545.8
Investment	4.0	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	5	5

The Fonds d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels is dedicated mainly to funding the Crime Victims Assistance Centres (CVAC). Its revenue is derived mainly from the victim surcharges collected under the Criminal Code and penal contributions, funds gained both from the fight against proceeds of crime and from the new penal surcharge, which came into force on July 1, 2003 and is entirely dedicated to crime victim assistance.

REGISTER FUND OF THE MINISTÈRE DE LA JUSTICE

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	28,996.4	30,888.3
Expenditure	24,728.3	25,144.9
Surplus (deficit)	4,268.1	5,743.4
Investment	2,910.5	4,393.0
Staff Level (FTEs)	153	151

The Register Fund is used to fund all of the activities relating to the publicizing of personal and movable real rights, to official recordings and to the certification services of the Government's Public Key Infrastructure. The Fund's revenue is derived from fees charged for these services and from the allocation of appropriations from the program Administration of Justice for the Register of lobbyists.

CIVIL STATUS FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	16,500.0	17,000.0
Expenditure	16,954.6	16,993.1
Surplus (deficit)	(454.6)	6.9
Investment	850.3	1,873.7
Staff Level (FTEs)	182	184

The deficit for the 2005-2006 fiscal year is offset by the Fund's accumulated surpluses.

The Civil Status Fund is allocated to finance the activities of the Registrar of Civil Status. The Registrar's role is to prepare and amend acts of civil status, maintain a register of these acts and ensure their publicity. Services offered to the population include registering acts of civil status, name changes, and issuing nearly one million certificates and copies of acts per year.

RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ In 2005-2006, the Ministère des Relations internationales is allocated a budget comparable to its 2004-2005 expenditure level.
- ❑ Given the changes in its activities and obligations, the Department will have to adopt economy measures, which will necessitate adjustment to the management of its staff levels and operating budgets.
- ❑ While contributing to the government effort in this manner, the Department intends to maintain the ability to act of its representation network abroad.
- ❑ Moreover, in 2005, the Minister will deposit a policy statement and an action plan on international affairs, which will guide the government's action and allow better targeting of actions and resources to Québec's international priorities.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Department's mission is to:

- Promote and defend Québec's interests on the international scene;
- Plan, organize and direct government action and the activities of its departments and agencies abroad;
- Coordinate their activities in Québec in matters of international relations.

This mission is entrusted to the Minister, who reports on it directly to the National Assembly. In this regard, the Minister:

- Proposes and implements an international affairs policy and directs a representation network abroad responding to the objectives of this policy;
- Advises the government on any matter pertaining to international relations, playing the role in this field of official spokesperson and primary discussion partner with foreign representatives;
- Develops relationships with national and regional government entities, and with international organizations and nongovernmental stakeholders.

The Minister of International Relations is also responsible for the Office franco-québécois pour la jeunesse, the Agence Québec/Wallonie-Bruxelles pour la jeunesse and the Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse and for the application of Division III.1 of the Act respecting the Ministère du Conseil exécutif (R.S.Q., c. M-30) regarding international humanitarian action.

Clienteles and stakeholders

The Department's clienteles are grouped into three main categories:

- The Premier, Cabinet members, departments and government agencies;
- Representatives of foreign governments and international organizations, which are considered stakeholders or partners;
- Citizens, enterprises, institutions and various civil society actors, many of whom are directly affected by the Department's programs.

The Department's areas of intervention

The Department's activities are grouped into three main areas of intervention, namely:

- Conduct of international relations;
- Information and communications;
- Management.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The Department's budget is \$99.6 million. Despite a budget level almost comparable to that of last year, the Department nonetheless had to adopt certain economy measures to deal with the growth of its expenditures, thus contributing to the government efforts to control public spending. The Department will allocate its resources so that it can effectively perform the mandate entrusted to it.

Its priorities primarily pertain to:

- The drafting of a policy statement on international affairs and an action plan to serve as a guide for the government's international activities in the years ahead;
- The strengthening of Québec's place in international negotiations and conferences where issues are discussed that are within its jurisdiction and concern its interests;
- A representation network abroad offering services adapted to the characteristics of the various countries and the needs of Québec businesses and institutions;
- The development of relations with the United States and France and the review of the action strategies regarding other geographic areas, accounting, in particular, for the growth of the European Union and the emergence of new economies;
- Québec's active participation in the international Francophonie;
- Coordination of implementation of the international space of the Government Services Portal;
- Consolidation of international solidarity actions;
- Implementation of a multi-year program of evaluation of the Department's activities.

Of the Department's four budgetary elements, the representation network abroad, as in the past, mobilizes the biggest share of the departmental budget, 44%. The Department thus maintains the ability to act of this action instrument essential to the service of Québec's international relations.

The other components of departmental action, whether bilateral or multilateral relations, youth programs or analysis, information and communications activities, are also allocated levels of resources comparable to last year's levels.

Moreover, in view of the new projects accepted, the Department this year is intensifying its support for the establishment of international organizations in Québec, particularly in Montréal.

3. BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. International Affairs	99,564.7	(986.1)	100,550.8	97,602.3
Total	99,564.7	(986.1)	100,550.8	97,602.3
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	578	(7)	585	—

Program 1: International Affairs

The purpose of this program is to plan, organize and direct government action abroad as well as coordinate the international relations activities in Québec of departments and agencies.

To fund this program, the Department, in the course of a fiscal year, has an initial expenditure budget and, subsequently, appropriations from the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, for the purpose of funding the activities of promotion, recruiting and selection abroad of candidates interested in emigrating to Québec.

In 2004-2005, the Department had a budget of \$100.5 million. In relation to this budget, the probable expenditure, excluding the amount of \$4.9 million transferred from the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles, is estimated at \$97.6 million.

In 2005-2006, the Department will have an initial expenditure budget of \$99.6 million. This budget has been established in accordance with the orientation of reducing the size of government. It also integrates some administrative measures, particularly concerning management of Québec immovables abroad.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	1,035.0	1,035.0
Loans, Investments and Advances	600.0	600.0

With the consolidation of the e-Government project, information technology more than ever is at the centre of government priorities. To pursue its contribution to this major project, particularly through the "International Space" of the Government Services Portal, the Department must ensure that it remains on the cutting edge of information and telecommunication technologies.

Most of the capital budget will therefore be allocated to revision of the technological infrastructure and to improvement of electronic document management. The efficient and secure circulation of information, both at headquarters and in the network, and the maintenance and upgrading of information technology and office automation equipment also remain priorities.

EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCY

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Office Québec-Amériques pour la jeunesse	2,335.0	2,364.3

SPECIAL FUNDS

FUND FOR MANAGEMENT OF QUÉBEC IMMOVABLES ON FOREIGN SOIL

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	10,257.0	11,176.5
Expenditure	10,245.8	11,130.6
Surplus (deficit)	11.2	45.9
Investment	1,522.0	2,927.8
Staff Level (FTEs)	4	4

The Fund for Management of Québec Immovables on Foreign Soil has a mandate to manage the goods and services required by Québec representation network abroad. It acquires and leases office space and official residences, implements renovation and capital spending projects, and manages artwork, furniture and equipment.

To ensure the performance of the mandate entrusted to it, the Fund for the Management of Québec Immovables on Foreign Soil is allocated a \$10.3 million expenditure budget in 2005-2006, which involves a budgetary effort in the order of \$0.3 million.

In 2004-2005, the Fund for the Management of Québec Immovables on Foreign Soil estimated revenue was \$11.2 million, including a transfer of appropriations of \$1 million from the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles to fund the needs of the immigration sector. The probable expenditure is pegged at \$11.1 million.

RESSOURCES NATURELLES ET FAUNE

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ Wealth creation is a challenge that Québec cannot ignore. The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune thus intends to increase the contribution of natural resources and public land to the Québec economy by proposing a wealth creation strategy, based on natural resources, for Québec as a whole.
- ❑ To ensure Québec's energy security and economic development, the Department will formulate a new energy strategy that will lay out the major energy issues and preferred government orientations.
- ❑ The sustainability of resources and land represent major challenges, as do their sustainable uses. The Department will improve management of the harvesting of forest resources in the domain of the State by formulating and implementing an action plan regarding the recommendations of the Commission for the study of public forest management in Québec.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The mission of the Department, in its capacity as the manager of public land and land information, as well as forest, mineral, energy and wildlife resources, consists of promoting the enhancement, conservation and knowledge of the land and natural resources, from a standpoint of sustainable development and integrated management, for the public interest.

Several extrabudgetary agencies are under the responsibility of the Minister of Natural Resources and Wildlife:

- The Fondation de la faune du Québec, the mission of which is to promote the conservation and the development of wildlife and its habitats;
- The Agence de l'efficacité énergétique, which promotes energy efficiency for all energy sources, in all sectors of activity and for the benefit of all of Québec's regions;
- The Régie de l'énergie, the mission of which is to promote meeting energy requirements from a standpoint of sustainable development and fairness for individuals and communities;
- The Société nationale de l'amiante, which has the role of ensuring the follow-up of the past commitments it had contracted and assuming the responsibilities arising from these commitments, given the privatization of all its assets over the past few years.

The Minister is responsible for two government enterprises: Hydro-Québec and the Société de développement de la Baie-James. The Minister is also responsible for three special funds: the Forestry Fund, the Land Information Fund and the Geographic Information Fund.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The Department's budgetary choices follow in the wake of the major work carried out in the past year, which focused on two of the main components of sustainable development, namely, the economic and environmental dimensions. The Department is also concerned about the services delivered to the public and specialized clientele, and seeks to offer quality services to its various clienteles.

The development of natural resources and public land contributes significantly to the Québec economy, in addition to constituting the economic base of several Québec regions. The Department has adopted an orientation based on intensifying Québec's economic development by the enhancement of land and resources, as a means of increasing Quebecers' collective wealth. To significantly increase the contribution of land and natural resources to the Québec economy, the Department intends to support regional economic growth by proposing a wealth creation strategy based on natural resources. It is also considering implementing a softwood lumber industry consolidation and diversification strategy and carrying out actions enabling significant progress in the integrated management of resources and public land.

This is a time of choices for Québec in the area of energy security. The definition of a new energy strategy, which will lay out the major issues and preferred government orientations, is among the actions envisioned that the Department intends to carry out in 2005-2006.

Natural resources and public land are a collective heritage for all Quebecers. The Department must optimize the development of resources and land while ensuring the sustainability of resources and biodiversity conservation. This optimized development must be done with consideration of environmental rules and resources and land sustainability exploitation. Among the major actions envisioned, it is appropriate to note the constant improvement of resource management and harvesting, particularly in the management of forests in the domain of the State. This improvement will begin with the formulation and the onset of the implementation of an action plan regarding the recommendations of the Commission for the study of public forest management in Québec. The creation of protected areas and the acquisition of objective, accurate and up-to-date knowledge are also among the actions envisioned.

Finally, the Department will pursue the modernization approach begun in 2003-2004, and will act on the government commitments made at the Forum des générations. Decentralization and regionalization projects will thus be put forward.

3. BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Management of Natural Resources and Wildlife	390,943.0	(5,050.4)	395,993.4	379,489.4
Total	390,943.0	(5,050.4)	395,993.4	379,489.4
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	2,421	(29)	2,450	—

Program 1: Management of Natural Resources and Wildlife

The objective of this program is to assure the development, protection, knowledge and enhancement of Québec's territory as well as wildlife, forestry, mineral and energy resources from the perspective of sustainable and integrated management.

The 2005-2006 expenditure budget of the Ressources naturelles et de la Faune portfolio totals \$390.9 million, down \$5.1 million compared to the 2004-2005 expenditure budget.

The variation in the budget is primarily explained by an addition of \$25 million to the expenditure budget for implementation of the measures of the Commission for the study of public forest management in Québec, while the net impact of the application of expenditure reduction measures is a reduction of \$30.1 million.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	38,174.1	38,174.1
Loans, Investments and Advances	110.4	110.4

The capital budget for 2005-2006 has been established at a level identical to that of 2004-2005.

EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006 Agency Budget (\$000)	2004-2005 Agency Budget (\$000)
Agence de l'efficacité énergétique	21,776.9	11,871.1
Fondation de la faune du Québec	4,846.9	7,461.2
Régie de l'énergie	8,905.0	8,056.6
Société nationale de l'amiante	485.0	469.0

SPECIAL FUNDS**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FUND**

	Forecast 2005-2006 (\$000)	Probable 2004-2005 (\$000)
Revenue	1,977.5	2,039.6
Expenditure	2,052.5	2,199.6
Surplus (deficit)	(75.0)	(160.0)
Investment	525.0	367.0
Staff Level (FTEs)	29	30

This Fund covers the operations of the Photocartotheque québécoise, which ensures the dissemination, on request and on a fee basis, of geographic information, i.e. cartographic, geodesic survey, remote sensing and aerial photograph data. It is also an indispensable tool for the management of financial transactions generated by the different specialized services offered in these areas.

LAND INFORMATION FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	105,797.5	117,758.0
Expenditure	95,528.9	85,172.3
Surplus (deficit)	10,268.6	32,585.7
Investment	53,271.1	38,535.8
Staff Level (FTEs)	473	566

The Land Information Fund finances surveying, cadastral and land registry activities, as well as the resulting goods and services.

The surplus for the 2004-2005 fiscal year is primarily due to the Québec Cadastre Reform Program, for which a large part of the expenditures is capitalized and amortized over a 40-year period, and to the good performance of the real estate market.

The decrease in the 2005-2006 surplus is explained by the anticipated decline in revenues derived from real estate activity and by the growth of expenditures resulting from the increase in the cost of professional services and amortization expenditures related to the Québec cadastre reform and the "Registration of Intervention Rights and Tenure" project.

FORESTRY FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	259,971.6	264,243.0
Expenditure	259,780.6	264,589.1
Surplus (deficit)	191.0	(346.1)
Investment	13,180.9	14,662.7
Staff Level (FTEs)	1,496	1,515

The Forestry Fund assures the realization of activities related to the production of seeds and seedlings for reforestation, preparation and updating of forest inventories, forestry research and development, and maintenance or improvement of the protection, development or processing of forest resources. The Department and the beneficiaries of timber supply and forest management agreements and auxiliary timber supply agreements help finance the Forestry Fund.

The variation in expenditures is primarily explained by the application of expenditure reduction measures.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ Since June 2004, the Ministère du Revenu is a government agency instituted under the Public Administration Act under the name of Revenu Québec.
- ❑ Revenue collection is the primary reason for existence of Revenu Québec and will remain its principal activity in 2005-2006. Revenues are divided into two groups:
 - Tax revenues, which consist of taxes on income and property, consumption taxes, duties and permits;
 - Extrabudgetary revenues, which include the amounts collected on behalf of other departments and agencies, or on behalf of the Government of Canada in the case of the goods and services tax (GST). These revenues are mainly composed of the goods and services tax and contributions to the Québec Pension Plan and the Health Services Fund.
- ❑ Effective January 1, 2006, Revenu Québec will collect the contributions to the new Québec Parental Insurance Plan.
- ❑ Tax recovery is related to the role of control entrusted upon Revenu Québec in order to ensure, in all fairness to the public, that amounts are reported correctly and that taxes, contributions and the corresponding duties are paid by the taxpayers and mandataries. An annual recovery objective is determined in collaboration with the Ministère des Finances and additional funding may also be allocated to increase this objective.
- ❑ Participation in the phased implementation of the measures of the government's 2004-2007 modernization plan will thus continue:
 - Pursuit of the implementation of the agency following the signing of the performance and accountability agreement and the management agreement, particularly by the adaptation of the administrative structure to a client-based approach;
 - The contribution to e-government;

- Pairing of the annual Enterprise Register registration forms and income tax returns;
- Cooperation in the implementation of government choices aimed at streamlining government structures.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The mission of Revenu Québec is to collect taxes, administer the Support-payment Collection Program, social programs of a tax nature and any other collection and redistribution program entrusted to it by the government, and to recommend adjustments to the tax policy or other programs.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The budgetary choices of Revenu Québec respond to three main issues. The first pertains to the equitable administration of taxation and programs in a manner consistent with the organization's mission. The second is to adapt services to the needs and expectations of the clientele through its involvement in modernization of government. The third concerns organizational performance and efficiency. Each of these issues focuses on a specific strategic orientation.

The largest share of the resources of Revenu Québec is allocated to carrying out its primary mission: to collect funds and redistribute them, if applicable. This function is reflected in its first orientation pertaining to the equitable administration of taxation and programs. In achieving this, the core activities are the processing of income tax returns and handling of information requests, based on the principle of self-assessment, along with control activities. Out of a concern for efficiency, the government has also entrusted Revenu Québec with the administration of various social programs of a tax nature, such as the Support-payment Collection Program, the sales tax credit and the real estate tax refund program. In all equity, so that everyone pays their fair share, Revenu Québec also intends to pursue the efforts devoted to control activities and combating black market labour and tax evasion.

The adaptation of the services to the context of modernization of government is the second issue. The resulting orientation is to offer quality services which account for the needs and expectations of citizens, businesses and the government. For this purpose, Revenu Québec will take advantage of the public partnership put forward by the government with Services Québec, the Centre de services administratifs or any other public body.

Also, at the end of 2005, the annual Enterprise Register registration forms and the income tax returns will be paired. Revenu Québec will also continue its collaboration in the implementation of e-government and will promote the increase and use of electronic services thanks to the improvement of existing services and the implementation of new transactional services.

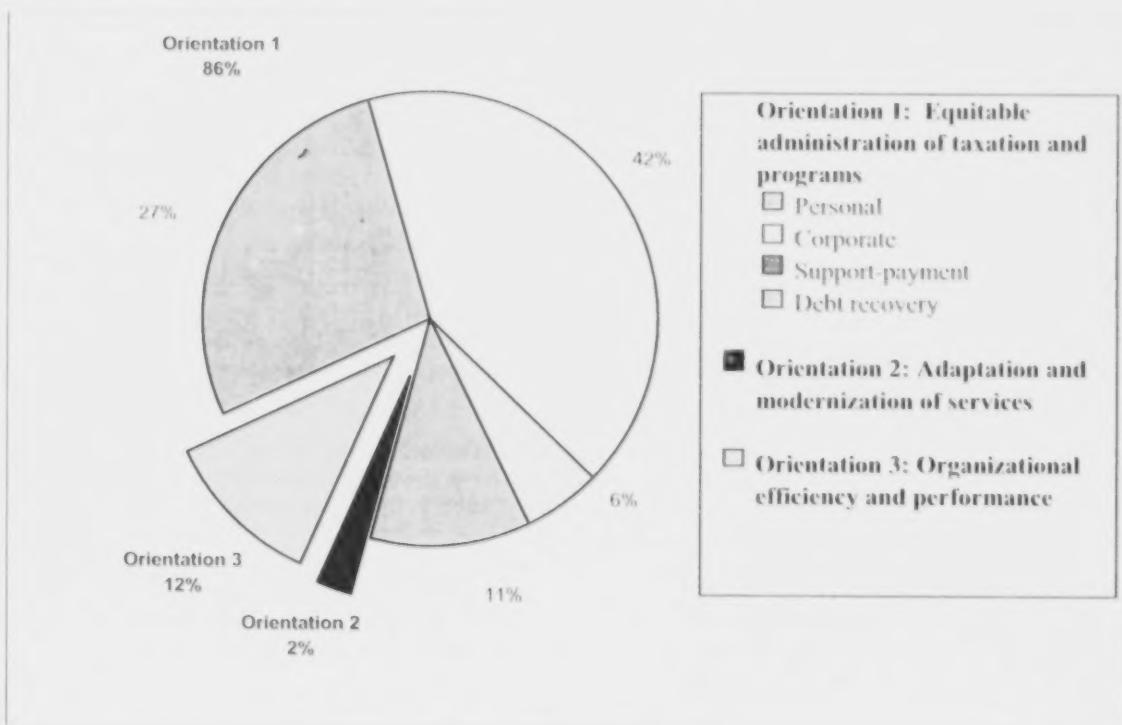
Moreover, in accordance with the agreement signed between the governments of Québec and Canada on March 1, 2005, Revenu Québec will handle the implementation, as of January 1, 2006, of the collection of contributions to the Québec Parental Insurance Plan.

The improvement of the organization's efficiency and performance, which constitutes the third issue, will be promoted on two levels: in the first place, by putting the emphasis on the pursuit of the development of expertise and mobilization of personnel, and secondly, on the upgrading of the technological systems for processing personal and corporate income tax returns. In addition, Revenu Québec will continue to implement its modernization.

The costs for carrying out all of these activities are paid from the appropriations voted by the Québec National Assembly and from other sources, including the budgets resulting from the GST agreement. Agreements and special government decisions applying during the 2005-2006 fiscal year, particularly in matters of intensifying the fight against tax evasion and black market labour or debt recovery, may also influence the budget which will be available. If applicable, these changes will be reflected in the 2005-2006 Annual Management Report.

Moreover, because of its specific mission regarding collection, the appropriations allocated to Revenu Québec include additional amounts not considered in the cost of the activities. The bulk of these amounts is composed of provisions for bad debts.

Despite these special conditions, to illustrate the budgetary choices related to the issues and the strategic orientations, the following graph presents a percentage estimate of the resources allocated to the activities performed by Revenu Québec¹.



¹ The FTEs and the costs of remuneration, including those related to the administration of the GST, have been used for the allocation of resources among the various activities of Revenu Québec.

Orientation 1 applies to the existing services, both in their traditional and electronic form. It encompasses 86% of the resources and includes all of the taxation activities related to personal and corporate clienteles, support-payment collection activities and debt recovery activities. Orientation 2 accounts for 2% of the resources and pertains to the adaptation of services, such as the development of new electronic services. Orientation 3 pertains to the growth of efficiency and performance, which includes, for example, development of the main tax return processing systems.

STRATEGY FOR OBTAINING INFORMATION FILES

To meet the requirements of section 71.0.11 of the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu (R.S.Q., c. M-31), this section presents the strategy for obtaining information files to compare, pair or cross-match the data.

Resorting to technology allows mass information processing and ensures better detection of erroneous, false or incomplete income tax returns and payment forms and non-filing of returns. Accordingly, Revenu Québec can corroborate and complete the information it already has at its disposal.

The strategy of Revenu Québec for obtaining information remains the same as in the past. Extracts from the databanks cover the entire population targeted by these databanks to enable the detection of tax evasion risks. These extracts only comprise the information required to apply tax laws, i.e. identification variables and variables related to financial data. This requested information may concern both corporations and individuals. Furthermore, Revenu Québec has established a calendar for the retention and destruction of the files obtained. The retention and destruction period corresponds to the habitual tax prescription period, i.e. the current contribution year and the three preceding years. The files are destroyed as soon as they are no longer useful or at the end of the applicable period.

Databank extracts are acquired methodically and transparently. The plan for initial utilization of databank extracts was submitted to the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec, and then tabled in the National Assembly in 1996. Subsequently, four updates of the utilization plan were produced. The last update, approved by the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec in May 2003, constituted a major review of the external information needs of Revenu Québec.

As regards accountability reporting, Revenu Québec submits a progress report annually on the comparison, pairing and cross-matching of information files received under section 71.0.11 of the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu and covered by the utilization plan. This report, produced on March 31 of each year, includes an opinion by the Commission d'accès à l'information du Québec. The March 31, 2004 progress report will be the eighth produced by Revenu Québec. Finally, Revenu Québec has a register of the requests made and the files received under the utilization plan. As set forth in the Act respecting the Ministère du Revenu, this register can be accessed by the public on request.

3. BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Tax Administration	602,603.0	(17,015.4)	619,618.4	621,992.1
Total	602,603.0	(17,015.4)	619,618.4	621,992.1
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	7,140	(21)	7,161	—

Program 1: Tax Administration

The entire budget of Revenu Québec is consolidated under the Tax Administration Program. The purpose of this program is to collect taxes and administer tax programs for a social purpose and any other collection program entrusted to it by the government, such as the Support-payment Collection Program.

For the 2004-2005 fiscal year, probable expenditure is \$622 million, i.e. \$2.4 million more than the expenditure budget. The variance is primarily explained by two factors, i.e. the additional sums obtained from the Ministère des Finances with a view to putting the measures in place to counter tax evasion and black market labour and the economization measures realized.

For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the expenditure budget declined by \$17 million compared to 2004-2005, to \$602.6 million. These variances are explained by various administrative rationalization measures.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	4,138.0	4,138.0
Loans, Investments and Advances	15.0	15.0

In 2005-2006, Revenu Québec forecasts a \$4.1 million expenditure, particularly to acquire vehicles and multimedia equipment and security for buildings.

SPECIAL FUNDS

COLLECTION FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	83,960.1 ¹	82,133.3
Expenditure	85,764.5	79,010.5
Surplus (deficit)	(1,804.4)	3,122.8
Investment	5,821.5	4,737.8
Staff Level (FTEs)	752	770

¹ In 2005-2006, the Fund's revenues come from the collection fees of Revenu Québec and billing of recovery expenses.

The purpose of the Tax Collection Fund is to finance activities for recovery of the amounts owed to Revenu Québec in unpaid taxes, duties, contributions to social programs of a tax nature, and support payments. The accumulated surpluses make it possible to offset the anticipated deficit of \$1.8 million.

FONDS DES PENSIONS ALIMENTAIRES

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	40,893.8 ¹	41,389.5
Expenditure	40,893.8	41,389.5
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	1,889.7	1,883.7
Staff Level (FTEs)	653	683

¹ In 2005-2006, the Funds' revenues come from Revenu Québec, a federal subsidy and billing of administrative expenses.

The objective of the Fonds des pensions alimentaires is to ensure the regularity of support payments to which children and the parental guardian are entitled.

MINISTÈRE DU REVENU FUND FOR THE SUPPLY OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	13,960.0	10,705.0
Expenditure	13,960.0	10,705.0
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The Supply of Goods and Services Fund is allocated to finance the activities of supplying goods or related services, particularly goods or services related to the know-how of Revenu Québec. The activities specific to the Fund primarily concern collection of contributions, auditing, cash inflows and systems development.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND OF THE MINISTÈRE DU REVENU

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue ¹	40,361.0	32,337.0
Expenditure	40,361.0	32,337.0
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	68,030.4	68,336.5
Staff Level (FTEs) ²	—	—

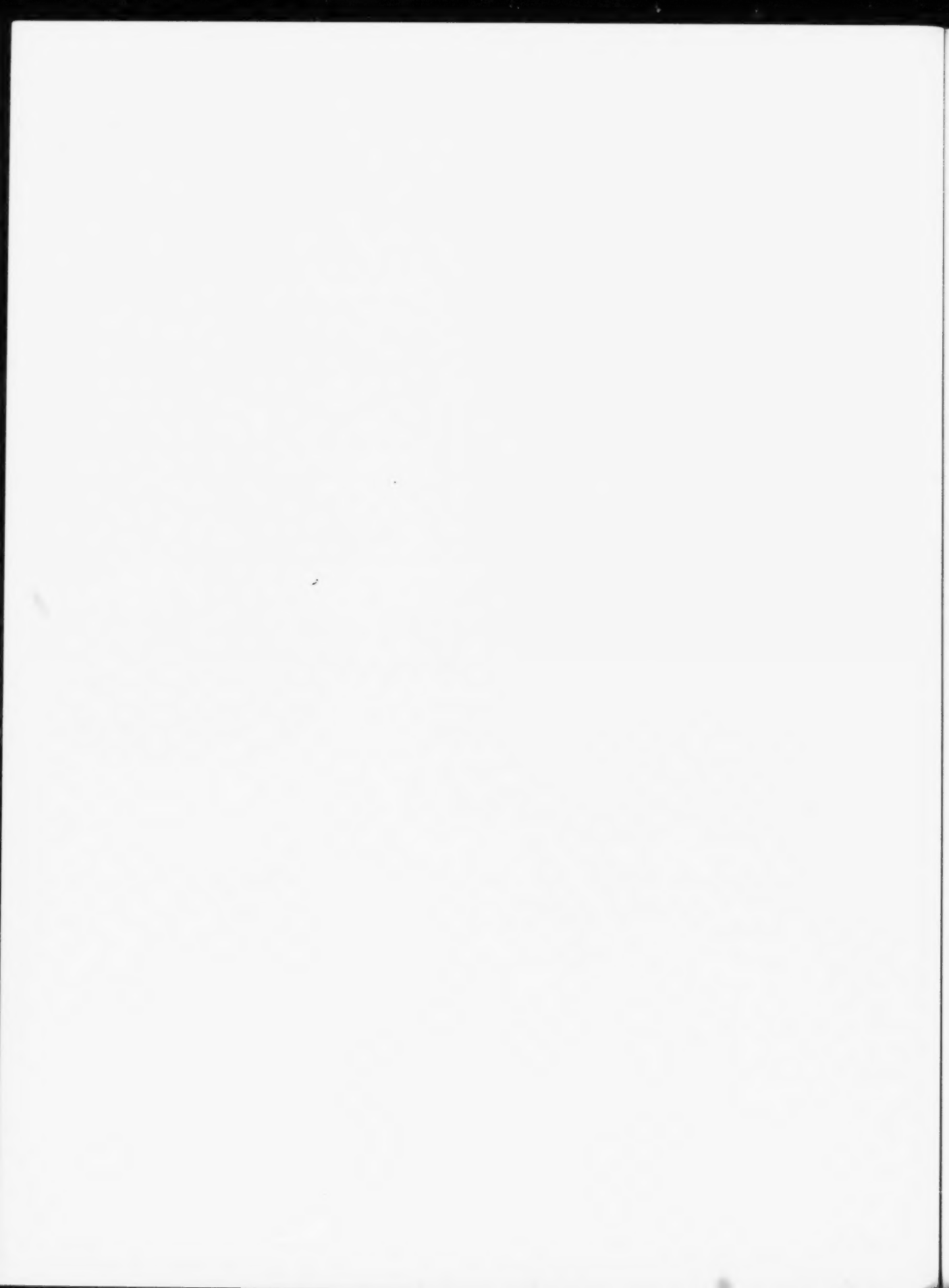
¹ In 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, the revenues from managing and leasing equipment and information systems come from Revenu Québec and other amounts received for GST administration.

² The remuneration expenditure allocated to the Information Technology Fund of Revenu Québec corresponds to 270 FTEs in 2004-2005 and in 2005-2006. These staff levels are included in the authorized staff level of Revenu Québec.

The Information Technology Fund of Revenu Québec allows it to finance current and future computer system upgrades and development and acquisitions of information technology assets. The purpose of this development is to increase the organization's efficiency, primarily to deliver higher quality public services and streamline procedures that facilitate electronic interaction with clients.

INVESTMENTS OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND OF REVENU QUÉBEC

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Computer development	41,349.4	45,494.2
Systems upgrades	10,133.1	9,959.2
Equipment (projects and upgrades)	16,547.9	12,883.1
Total	68,030.4	68,336.5



SANTÉ ET SERVICES SOCIAUX

HIGHLIGHTS

- The budget for the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux for the 2005-2006 fiscal year will make it possible to fund:
 - The increase in the cost of programs, including system costs that are particular to the health system;
 - An additional \$75 million allocation to review basic budgetary issues in order to return to a balanced budget for regular network operations by March 31, 2007;
 - The operation of new facilities and equipment;
 - The development of services for people with a gambling addiction, alcoholism or drug addiction, for women victims of violence and their children, and for young people experiencing difficulties;
 - The implementation of action plans for services for the elderly and people suffering from mental disorders;
 - The introduction of new vaccines and the development of a reserve of antiviral agents in the event of a potential influenza pandemic;
 - The development of new health services included as part of the "Peace of the Braves" agreement.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The mission of the health and social services sector is to maintain, improve and restore the health and well-being of Quebecers by making available to them an entire range of integrated, high-quality health and social services, which contributes to the social and economic development of Québec.

The primary role of the Department is to regulate the health and social services system, to set the guidelines for health and well-being policy, and to evaluate results based on set objectives. The Department must also ensure cross-regional financing and coordination, set labour adaptation policies and negotiate contracts and collective agreements.

As agents for the Department in each of the regions, the development agencies for local health and social services networks are responsible for the planning, organization and coordination of programs and services, and for the allocation of resources within their territory.

Based on the proposals made by the agencies to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the government created 95 local health and social services networks during the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

The mission of the local health and social services networks is to prepare and provide direct services to the population according to the clients they serve and the nature of services to be provided in accordance with the functions mandated to them by the Act Respecting Health Services and Social Services (R.S.Q., c. S-4.2).

The Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) primarily administers the health insurance and prescription drug insurance plans, as well as any other program entrusted to it by law or by the government (e.g.: the dental care for children program). The RAMQ acts as an agent for managing the bank of health and social services data of common interest, and ensures the dissemination of information to stakeholders in the health and social services sector.

On December 15, 2004, the National Assembly of Québec adopted Bill 56, Act amending the Act to Secure the Handicapped in the Exercise of their Rights and other legislative provisions. This law, which is now entitled the Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration (R.S.Q., c. E-20.1), primarily aims to allow the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec to effectively carry out its role in evaluating and integrating the handicapped, ensure that the principles and regulations of the law and play a determining role in advising, coordinating and cooperating to improve opportunities offered to the handicapped.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The budget of \$20,862 million for the Department includes an amount of \$597.6 million for the funding of the health and social services system and an additional allocation of \$75 million to support one of the Department's priorities, the return to a balanced budget for regular network operations by March 31, 2007. In this respect, we must mention that the first portion of \$100 million helped to reduce the network's deficit of \$363 million in 2003-2004 to an estimated \$230 million in 2004-2005. The budget also includes an amount of \$30 million for the operation of new facilities and equipment.

An amount of \$15 million that will be annualized to \$25 million, is planned for the development of new services for certain clients, such as people suffering from a gambling addiction, alcoholism or drug addiction, women victims of violence and their children, and young people experiencing difficulties.

The "Peace of the Braves" agreement includes the implementation of new health services over a five-year period. In this respect, an amount of \$10.9 million is planned in the 2005-2006 budget to support the implementation of these services.

The 2005-2006 will be the first full year in which the population will be able to benefit from better integrated services through the implementation of local networks. The Department has decided to take advantage of this opportunity to launch an initiative with each agency regarding the submission of an action plan during the 2005-2006 fiscal year for the provision and organization of services to the elderly and people suffering from mental disorders. This initiative will be a prerequisite to the addition of new capital expenditures in these fields. The Department plans to add an amount of \$50 million in 2005-2006 to implement these plans.

In the coming year, the Department will continue with its efforts to implement family medicine units. Additionally, a budget of \$60 million is being maintained to support the initiative to reduce average waiting times for surgery.

The Department signed agreements on management and accountability with all agencies in 2004-2005. These agreements cover objectives for services to be provided to the public and the respect of budgets. Monitoring to ensure the accountability reporting and the respect of agreements was implemented. The signing of similar agreements between the agencies and establishments in each region had to be postponed by one year following the creation of local networks in 2004-2005. Now that these networks have been created, these types of agreements could apply between the agencies and establishments.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The expenditure budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year increased \$780.9 million over the 2004-2005 budget.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. National Operations	276,783.5	(3,062.2)	279,845.7	281,691.4
2. Regional Operations	15,174,853.7	573,259.5	14,601,594.2	14,548,264.3
3. Office des personnes handicapées du Québec	49,449.3	1,851.0	47,598.3	53,835.6
4. Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec	5,360,913.5	208,832.3	5,152,081.2	5,152,081.2
Total	20,862,000.0	780,880.6	20,081,119.4	20,035,872.5
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	1,019	(7)	1,026	—

Program 1: National Operations

This program provides the Department and its advisory bodies with the resources and services necessary to establish, implement and monitor their health and social service programs. It also enables the general public to voice its needs; it ensures Quebec-wide coordination of the development and delivery of health and social services; and it funds Quebec-wide projects.

The expenditure budget for this program decreased from \$279.8 million to \$276.8 million. This variance is mainly due to administrative cost-cutting measures.

Program 2: Regional Operations

This program provides public services that promote the attainment of the objectives defined in the Policy on Health and Well-Being with regard to social adaptation, physical health, public health, mental health and social integration.

The budgeted increase for this program is \$573.3 million. This increase is mainly attributable to the system costs that are particular to the health system (\$113 million), salary increases for network personnel (\$116.8 million) an additional portion of \$75 million for the review of budget bases of establishments, the increase in prices for goods and services (\$96.6 million), the increase in debt service (\$45.8 million), the operation of new facilities and equipment (\$30 million), the development of services for more vulnerable clients (\$15 million, which will be annualized to \$25 million), an amount of \$50 million for the implementation of action plans for services to the elderly and people with mental disorders and an amount of \$27 million for the introduction of new vaccines (\$16 million) and the creation of a reserve of antiviral agents (\$11 million).

Program 3: Office des personnes handicapées du Québec

The purpose of this program is to ensure the rights of handicapped persons.

The budget for this program increased \$1.9 million. This increase essentially results from the indexing of grants for sheltered workshops, the impact of the increase in the minimum wage in sheltered workshops and the costs resulting from the application of the Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration.

Program 4: Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec

The purpose of this program is to fund the costs of insured services and administrative costs of the health insurance plan and prescription drug insurance plan.

The budget for this program increased \$208.8 million. This increase is primarily due to forecasts of increases in costs related to medical practice, liability insurance for physicians, the prescription drug insurance plan and technical assistance.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	1,372.0	2,381.9
Loans, Investments and Advances	—	—

The Department's capital expenditures in 2005-2006 will be mainly for updating its computer systems.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCIES

	2005-2006 Agency Budget (\$000)	2004-2005 Agency Budget (\$000)
Agence de l'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé	3,043.1	3,040.8
Conseil de la santé et du bien-être	1,333.9	1,348.2
Conseil du médicament	6,063.4	6,128.3
Conseil médical du Québec	726.1	733.8
Protecteur des usagers en matière de santé et de services sociaux	3,461.9	3,499.0

SPECIAL FUNDS**PRESCRIPTION DRUG INSURANCE FUND**

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	2,546,512.1	2,330,726.6
Expenditure	2,546,512.1	2,330,726.6
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The Prescription Drug Insurance Fund is instituted under the Act respecting the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (R.S.Q., c. R-5). Its purpose is to cover the cost of prescription drugs, pharmaceutical services and administrative expenses pertaining to the coverage of persons aged 65 and older, and to employment assistance recipients and their children, to any eligible person who is not required to join a group insurance contract or an employee benefit plan.

The Fund primarily consists of an amount paid by the Minister of Finance to cover prescription drug expenditures and the administration costs incurred for persons aged 65 and older and for employment assistance recipients. It also includes premiums paid by individuals who, regardless of age, are not covered by group insurance or an employee benefit plan. The premiums are determined on the basis of income earned during the calendar year. The Act provides for a waiver of premiums for certain categories of persons, including children and employment assistance recipients.

The Fund is administered by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec. The Fund's management, financing and operating procedures are set forth in its constituting Act. Under this Act, the total amounts paid to the Fund must, in the long term, allow for payment of its obligations.

The Act also stipulates that the annual premium and the contribution parameters (deductible, coinsurance and maximum annual contribution) are adjusted on July 1 of each year to allow for payment of the Fund's obligations.

SÉCURITÉ PUBLIQUE

HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2005-2006 fiscal year will notably be marked by the continued implementation of public security reforms initiated in 2000:
 - All plans for the organization of police services should be approved in 2005-2006. The Ministère de la Sécurité publique will ensure that the required service levels are met;
 - Bill 88, which addresses matters of private security, was submitted to the National Assembly in December 2004 and referred to the Commission des institutions for consideration on February 17, 2005 and March 17, 2005;
 - With respect to fire safety, 31 fire safety cover plans were submitted in 2004, and fifty percent of the 103 plans should to be submitted in 2005-2006.
- To help the government reach its objectives with regard to workforce planning and reducing the size of government, the Department will carry out its first multi-year workforce management plan, which will cover three fiscal years. This plan will allow the Department to define the workforce necessary to achieve its mission, to specify the gaps between the workforce currently available and that required, and to identify staffing requirements and strategies for reducing these gaps.
- The Sûreté du Québec will escalate its efforts in the fight against major crime by improving the quality of its process for managing criminal information. This type of information is essential for preventing crime-related risks.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The mission of the Department consists of taking on a leadership role in providing Quebecers with a safe living environment that allows them to develop their individual rights and freedoms and which is favourable to the development of communities.

To fulfill its mission, the Department relies on the cooperation and expertise of close to 12,000 employees in four divisions (Affaires policières, prévention et services de sécurité, Sécurité civile et sécurité incendie, Services à la gestion and Services correctionnels) as well as the Sûreté du Québec. Seven agencies and a Board reporting to the Minister of Public Security also contribute to the public security mission in various respects: the Bureau du coroner, the Comité de déontologie policière, the Police Ethics Commissioner, the Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles, the École nationale de police du Québec, the École nationale des pompiers du Québec, the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux (RACJ), and the Conseil de surveillance des activités de la Sûreté du Québec. Finally, the Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale is an independent service unit.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The budgetary choices determined in 2005-2006 are supported by the main objectives of the Department, which represent key budget issues.

First budgetary choice: Be responsible for the essential activities relating to police organization, private security, civil safety and fire safety and correctional services

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Objective: | Improve the effectiveness of police services throughout Québec. |
| Action envisioned: | Approve the 35 plans for the organization of police services by September 2005. |
| Objective: | Review the private security framework, specifically as regards the quality of the services offered and operational practices. |
| Action envisioned: | Continue the parliamentary committee process for considering the adoption of Bill 88, which addresses matters of private security. |
| Objective: | Continue developing police services in native communities through the renewal of policing agreements. |
| Action envisioned: | Renew 13 policing agreements by March 2006. |
| Objective: | Improve the response to fire hazards, in cooperation with regional county municipalities and municipalities. |
| Action envisioned: | Analyze the fire safety cover plans received in 2005-2006. |
| Objective: | Ensure support for and structured guidance of offenders under supervised probation, in open custody. |
| Action envisioned: | Develop three management frameworks of follow-up measures in open custody in 2005-2006 (temporary leave, parole and probation). |

Second Budgetary Choice: Prevent risks related to crime, terrorism and natural disasters

- Objective:** Establish intersectoral crime prevention actions.
- Action envisioned:** Promote the adoption of local, community-based crime prevention strategies by five regional county municipalities or municipalities by March 2006.
- Objective:** Improve the preparedness of stakeholders with regard to incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials.
- Action envisioned:** Submit the document on the harmonization of interventions involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials by March 2006.
- Objective:** Set up new partnerships with police and government organizations involved in the fight against major crime.
- Action envisioned:** Develop three new partnerships focusing on emerging criminal activities.
- Objective:** Increase the number of entries to the Sûreté du Québec criminal information database by 30% over the next three years, in order to obtain quality information and analyses that meet the set standards.
- Action envisioned:** Make the Automated Criminal Intelligence Information System available to all certified municipal police departments.
- Objective:** Facilitate the communication of risks to the population.
- Action envisioned:** Submit a draft regulation in 2005-2006 on the control of use of soil in landslide risk zones.

Third Budgetary Choice: Increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency

- Objective:** Increase the accessibility of e-government information for citizens and businesses.
- Actions envisioned:** Reduce the average processing time for closed citations by 10% in 2005-2006, from the 2003-2004 average of 13.9 months noted by the Comité de déontologie policière.
- Submit the business model for the "Justice et Sécurité" portal by March 2006.
- Disseminate decisions taken by the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux since 2002 on the Web site of the Société québécoise d'information juridique in 2005-2006.

Objective: Participate in achieving the government's objectives with respect to workforce planning and reducing the size of government.

Action envisioned: Develop a multi-year workforce management plan to evaluate the staffing requirements of the Department.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The objective of the budget plan submitted in 2005-2006 is to assume responsibility for essential public security activities, in order to prevent risks related to crime, terrorism and natural disasters, prevent certain types of deaths, and increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

The expenditure budget allocated to the "Sécurité publique" portfolio in 2005-2006 amounts to \$906.3 million, which represents an increase of \$11.8 million or 1.3% compared to the previous year. This change is notably due to the implementation of an Act Concerning the Organization of Police Services (2001, c. 19), which was ratified in June 2001 and which significantly changed the territorial organization of police services in Québec. Moreover, the difference between the probable expenditure in 2004-2005 and the 2004-2005 expenditure budget is mainly explained by increased expenses for law enforcement, financial aid for natural disasters and initiatives for countering the illegal sale of alcoholic beverages.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Security, Prevention and Internal Management	410,160.7	(5,425.0)	415,585.7	434,185.7
2. Sûreté du Québec	471,128.3	18,474.8	452,653.5	478,976.9
3. Agencies Reporting to the Minister	25,037.3	(1,288.6)	26,325.9	27,270.8
Total	906,326.3	11,761.2	894,565.1	940,433.4
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	7,006	(45)	7,051	—

Program 1: Security, Prevention and Internal Management

This program combines Management Services (consisting primarily of the central envelopes allocated to employer contributions, leases, telecommunications and depreciation), Correctional Services, the Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale, Police, Security and Protection, Civil Safety and Fire Safety and the Conseil de surveillance des activités de la Sûreté du Québec. This program has an expenditure budget of \$410.2 million, or \$5.4 million less than in fiscal 2004-2005. This difference of \$5.4 million reflects a rationalization of the program's overall expenditures.

Program 2: Sûreté du Québec

The Sûreté du Québec works throughout the province to maintain peace and public order, to preserve the life, safety and fundamental rights of individuals and to protect their property. The Sûreté du Québec also supports the organization of police services, coordinates major police operations, contributes to the integrity of government institutions, and ensures the safety of transportation and communication networks under Québec's jurisdiction.

The program expenditure budget is \$471.1 million, an increase of \$18.5 million compared to the previous year. This difference is explained by the implementation of an Act Concerning the Organization of Police Services, which was ratified in June 2001 and requires a stabilization of staff and buildings, and by an increase in the Sûreté's duties.

The Sûreté du Québec's activities are partly financed by revenues from the fees it charges to municipalities, estimated at \$223.2 million, and by revenues from the federal government, specifically \$5.5 million for firearms control and \$3.3 million for police service on the Jacques Cartier and Champlain bridges. These revenues, respectively managed in a special fund and in a defined-purpose account for firearms control, bring the Sûreté du Québec's forecast expenditures to \$703.1 million.

Program 3: Agencies Reporting to the Minister

This program includes five agencies:

- The Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux, which is responsible for administering the legislation and regulations relating to the manufacturing and sale of alcoholic beverages, offences in matters concerning alcoholic beverages, racing, bingos and raffles, gambling and amusement equipment, and the practice of certain combat sports;
- The Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles, which is mandated to review cases of inmates eligible for parole;
- The Coroner's Office, which is responsible for investigating deaths occurring in unexplained or violent circumstances;
- The Police Ethics Commissioner, who processes complaints against police officers, special constables and highway controllers in the course of their duties;

- The Comité de déontologie policière, which, as a specialized administrative tribunal, is responsible for reviewing the Police Ethics Commissioner's decisions, dismissing complaints after investigation and disposing of any citation filed by the Commissioner.

A budget of \$25 million is allocated to this program, representing a decrease of \$1.3 million as compared to the 2004-2005 fiscal year. This is notably explained by a rationalization of expenditures.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	29,903.1	29,903.1
Loans, Investments and Advances	61.4	61.4

The Department's capital budget is \$29.9 million. Of this amount, \$9.7 million is allocated to systems development, and the purchase of information technology and other equipment for the Department's core activities. At the Sûreté du Québec, the capital budget of \$20.2 million is allocated as follows: \$8.4 million for the upgrade of the vehicle fleet assigned to investigations, highway patrol and special services, and \$11.8 million to acquire specialized equipment and develop information systems.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCIES AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006 Agency Budget (\$000)	2004-2005 Agency Budget (\$000)
Budget-funded Agencies		
Coroner's Office	6,976.7	7,004.9
Comité de déontologie policière	1,806.8	2,000.6
Police Ethics Commissioner	2,780.2	2,792.1
Commission québécoise des libérations conditionnelles	2,905.0	2,931.4
Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux	10,568.6	11,596.9
Extrabudgetary Agencies		
École nationale de police du Québec	25,006.5	24,922.6
École nationale des pompiers du Québec	1,108.8	1,323.0

SPECIAL FUNDS

POLICE SERVICES FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006 (\$000)	Probable 2004-2005 (\$000)
Revenue	414,734.0	411,523.7
Expenditure	414,734.0	411,523.7
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	24,858.3	11,387.4
Staff Level (FTEs)	3,763	3,763

The Police Services Fund is earmarked to fund the cost of goods and services provided by the Sûreté du Québec to the municipalities and any body other than a municipality, consequent to an agreement made in accordance with the Police Act (R.S.Q., c. P-13.1). This essentially concerns police service to regional county municipalities, based on the community policing model.

The expenditure budget is slightly higher than that for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. This increase is mainly due to the upgrade of services required by the Act Concerning the Organization of Police Services. Revenue sources are as follows: fees charged to municipalities under the Regulation respecting the amount payable by the municipalities for the services of the Sûreté du Québec, in the forecast amount of \$223.2 million; amounts received from the federal government for police service on the Jacques Cartier and Champlain bridges, in the amount of \$3.3 million; and, an allocation from the Program 2 expenditure budget to balance the Fund, in the amount of \$188.2 million. The planned investment of \$24.9 million is distributed as follows: \$10.2 million for the upgrade and acquisition of a vehicle fleet for regional county municipalities police stations, and \$14.7 million to acquire specialized equipment and develop information systems.

SERVICES GOUVERNEMENTAUX

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over the next few years, Services gouvernementaux will review the services provided by government in order to better meet the day-to-day needs of the public, enterprises, the Administration, and government networks. By focusing its efforts on optimal results, Services gouvernementaux will foster the development of centres of excellence in the delivery of public services in Québec.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

Mission

To provide relevant, accessible, quality services for the public, enterprises, as well as the Administration and government networks, and to ensure the development of e-government.

Responsibilities

In the February 18, 2005 Cabinet shuffle, the Premier appointed a Minister of Government Services and a Minister for Online Government.

The Minister of Government Services was primarily assigned the following mandates:

- Set up Services Québec. Development of this agency will substantially change the way the government works and, in particular, how public services are delivered to individuals and enterprises. Communication-Québec is attached to this agency;
- Establish the Centre de services administratifs, which will provide departments and agencies with shared services while contributing to their implementation. Hence, all areas of government services (information and communications technology, the acquisition and disposal of assets, supplies and furnishings, office equipment maintenance, government printing and mail, integrated resource management systems), as well as the Service aérien gouvernemental, fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Government Services. The same applies to Publications du Québec, the network of government libraries, and media buying and exhibition services;
- Provide departments and agencies with advanced expertise in specialized services they could not otherwise afford, and this both efficiently and at a reasonable cost;
- Supply departments and agencies with the properties and other assets they need to deliver their services. Thus, the Société immobilière du Québec is now a responsibility of the Minister of Government Services. This agency tables a separate annual management report that includes its financial results.

The Minister for Online Government will assist the Minister of Government Services in the following mandates:

- Ensuring the development, installation, deployment and promotion of e-government;
- Assuring that government information in electronic format is used efficiently and securely, in an effort to improve the supply of government services.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

Services gouvernementaux has made its budgetary choices on the basis of government priorities and the ensuing orientations. Accordingly, in its first full year of operation, Services gouvernementaux faces three major challenges: setting up a multiservice counter for individuals and enterprises, deploying e-government, and establishing an administrative service centre for departments and agencies.

MODERNIZE THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ENTERPRISES

Simple and efficient access to quality services

Services gouvernementaux intends to make an extensive effort to use information technology to its full potential for the benefit of individuals and enterprises, as well as consolidate and reorganize some of the services now provided by several departments and agencies. By means of a multiservice counter (Services Québec), individuals and enterprises will have access, in the manner they prefer, to an array of services now provided separately. An amount of \$12.9 million has been allocated for this strategic choice.

Actions envisioned:

- Draw up an action plan for the gradual implementation of Services Québec;
- Develop the services provided by Services Québec;
- Analyze potential projects for improving the delivery of services for individuals and enterprises;
- Improve service organization in the regions;
- Establish means of continuously measuring the degree of public satisfaction.

Deployment of e-government and optimal usage of informational resources

Intensifying the deployment of e-government represents a lever for integrating and improving the quality of services provided to individuals and enterprises, by enabling departments and agencies to optimize how they do things.

A budget of \$7.8 million will be allocated for this orientation. It should be noted that an additional \$11.2 million is available for departmental and agency projects related to e-government.

Actions envisioned:

- Foster the development of horizontal structuring projects, particularly the government service portal, with a view to improving the delivery of services for individuals and enterprises;
- Ensure the introduction of security measures for electronic interaction, primarily with a view to shifting the delivery of certain government services to a transactional level;

- Through measures and new funding formulas, stimulate the development of projects aimed at accelerating the emergence of the information society and e-government;
- Encourage the streamlining of government informational resources, primarily through measures such as standardization, the reuse of components and increased use of free software;
- Promote and emphasize e-government expertise within the government community;
- Foster and promote the use of online services by the public, while ensuring the quality of other service delivery methods.

FOSTER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUPPLY OF SHARED SERVICES

Development of shared services

Integrating administrative services is an approach favoured by the Gouvernement du Québec. In this regard, there are numerous advantages to shared services, among them an improvement in quality and the achievement of economies of scale and increased efficiency. An expenditure budget of \$6.7 million is earmarked for the acquisition and disposal of moveable assets as well as for documentation.

Furthermore, other shared services currently the responsibility of Services gouvernementaux are financed through the Fonds des services gouvernementaux and the Government Information Fund, both of which are described in the section on the budget plan.

Actions envisioned:

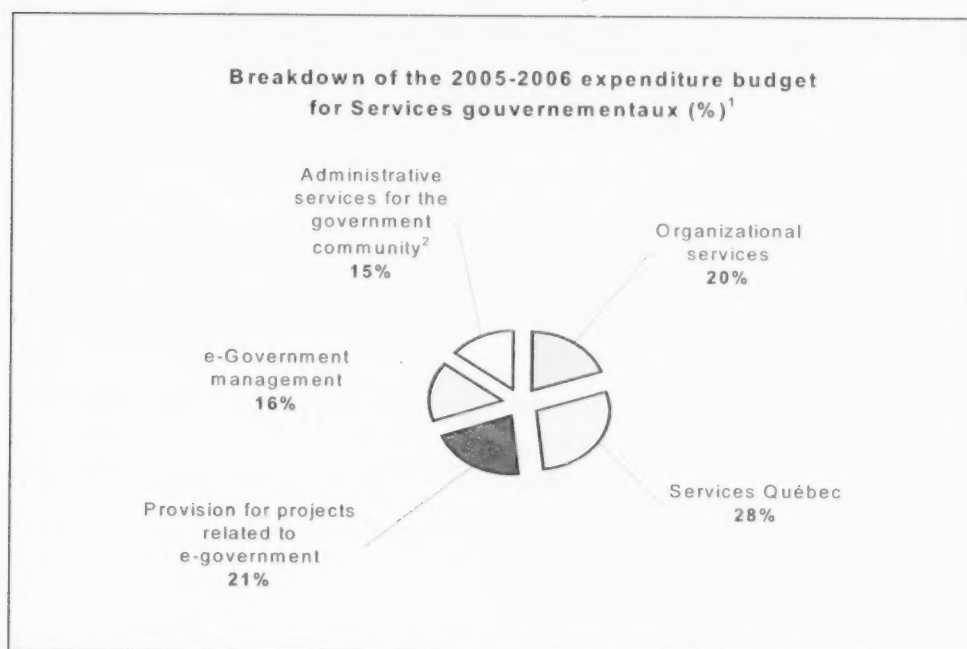
- Prepare the implementation of, and begin phasing in, an administrative services centre;
- Continue modernizing the resource management systems of the Gouvernement du Québec.

3. BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Government Services	53,948.8	3,415.8	50,533.0	43,798.8
Total	53,948.8	3,415.8	50,533.0	43,798.8
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	508	—	508	—

Note: This program includes a provision for projects related to e-government that allows transfers to other government programs where the probable expenditure is increased accordingly. Given these transfers, no probable expenditures are included in this provision.



¹ This breakdown of the Services gouvernementaux expenditure budget was done after allocating rent and employer contributions to each element shown.

² This percentage excludes shared services financed by the Fonds des services gouvernementaux and the Government Information Fund, for which expenditures of \$304.5 million are planned for 2005-2006.

Program 1: Government Services

This program encompasses expenditures related to providing services for individuals, enterprises, as well as the Administration and government networks. It also includes amounts allocated for e-government, as well as a provision for carrying out related projects. Finally, the program covers acquisitions and disposals under An Act respecting the Service des achats du gouvernement (R.S.Q., c. S-4).

The expenditure budget for this program in 2005-2006 is at \$53.9 million, a \$3.4 million increase over 2004-2005. This increase stems from the budget necessary to create this new portfolio, which notably includes Services Québec.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	25,221.2	20,721.2
Loans, Investments and Advances	30.0	5.0

The fixed assets of Services gouvernementaux are primarily related to e-government project development. The variance from the previous year essentially stems from approved investments for the establishment of Services gouvernementaux and the introduction of Services Québec.

EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCY

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Société immobilière du Québec	585,873.0	603,990.0

SPECIAL FUNDS**FONDS DES SERVICES GOUVERNEMENTAUX**

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	278,195.6	272,260.9
Expenditure	266,895.0	261,223.5
Surplus (deficit)	11,300.6	11,037.4
Investment	126,898.6	102,256.9
Staff Level (FTEs)	920	933

The purpose of the Fonds des services gouvernementaux is to fund certain goods and services that are provided to government departments and agencies. These goods and services include information systems development and operation, telecommunications, mail pickup and delivery, copying, the sale and distribution of office supplies and furnishings, office equipment maintenance, the air transport necessary for government functions, and lastly, support for resource management.

In 2005-2006, Fonds des services Gouvernementaux revenue is expected to total \$278.2 million and expenditures \$266.9 million, respective increases of \$5.9 million (2.2%) and \$5.7 million (2.2%) over probable revenue and expenditures for the previous year. These increases are primarily due to an expected increase in business volume.

The \$24.6-million variance in investments between 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 is essentially the result of a \$43.3-million increase in investments in information and communication technology projects, including the implementation of the Réseau national intégré de radiocommunication, upgrades to mainframe computers, pursuit of the Service québécois d'authentification gouvernementale project, and various plans for developing electronic service delivery. Also noteworthy is a \$13.5-million decrease stemming from a review of investments in the program to modernize integrated resource management systems and a \$5.3-million reduction in investments in the Service aérien gouvernemental, which expects no major aircraft overhauls in 2005-2006.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006 (\$000)	Probable 2004-2005 (\$000)
Revenue	37,436.0	36,278.0
Expenditure	37,654.0	37,034.0
Surplus (deficit)	(218.0)	(756.0)
Investment	615.0	461.0
Staff Level (FTEs)	129	132

The purpose of the Government Information Fund is to provide government departments and agencies with expert advice and services in the realm of advertising and media buying, exhibitions, audiovisual technical services, translation, copyright management, publishing and the distribution of government publications. No significant variances are planned for 2005-2006 in terms of revenue, expenditures and investments compared to the previous year. The deficit forecast for 2005-2006 will be almost completely covered by the accumulated surplus as at March 31, 2004.

TOURISME

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ The specific tax on lodging will be extended to at least three new regions in 2005-2006 to help enhance efforts to develop supply and promote regional tourism.
- ❑ The Ministère du Tourisme will continue its promotional activities in international markets.
- ❑ The Department will pursue its efforts to make the tourism industry more responsive to travellers in terms of the tourist experience, product quality, and hospitality and information services.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

Creation of the Department was announced by the Premier during the Cabinet shuffle last February 18. Previously Tourisme had been a division of the Ministère du Développement économique et régional et de la Recherche since April 29, 2003.

The Department's mission is to foster the success of Québec's tourism industry. To fulfill this mission the Department is focusing its resources and efforts on four strategic objectives.

Guide and coordinate government and private tourism activities

As the lead department in the area of tourism, the Department has a mandate to bring together all public and private players interested in pursuing a shared vision and developing coordinated strategies for ensuring growth of the tourism industry. The Department's activities along these lines are geared towards the following priorities:

- Cultivate knowledge of tourism and management information;
- Develop and implement policies, action plans, and programs;
- Provide public and private partners with tourism expertise.

Stimulate and support the development of tourism products

The Department works on developing supply that meets tourist demand. Its actions in this regard aim to:

- Identify and structure development opportunities for tourism projects;
- Support and guide product development initiatives;
- Promote the quality of tourism products and services.

Market Québec and its tourist experiences

The Department has to promote Québec's tourism supply in local, national, American and overseas markets to encourage tourists to visit the province. The Department therefore engages in the following activities:

- Promote Québec as a tourist destination;
- Sell Québec tourist experiences;
- Facilitate the use of Québec products.

Provide and oversee tourist services in the areas of hospitality, information and bookings

- Improve the reception for tourists in Québec;
- Facilitate access to information and the use of Québec tourism products;
- Provide tourist information and booking services.

The Minister is also responsible for the Société du Centre des congrès de Québec, the Société du Palais des congrès de Montréal, the Régie des installations olympiques and the Tourism Partnership Fund.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The Tourism Partnership Fund budget is allocated to pursuing out the Department's four strategic objectives.

The first, giving the tourism industry assets to improve its ability to meet traveller expectations, will be allocated 5% of the Tourism Partnership Fund. Québec has to identify and more closely target its clienteles, enhance the quality of its products and services, and offer unique tourist experiences. To meet these challenges, the budget for guiding and coordinating government and private efforts in tourism will be maintained in 2005-2006.

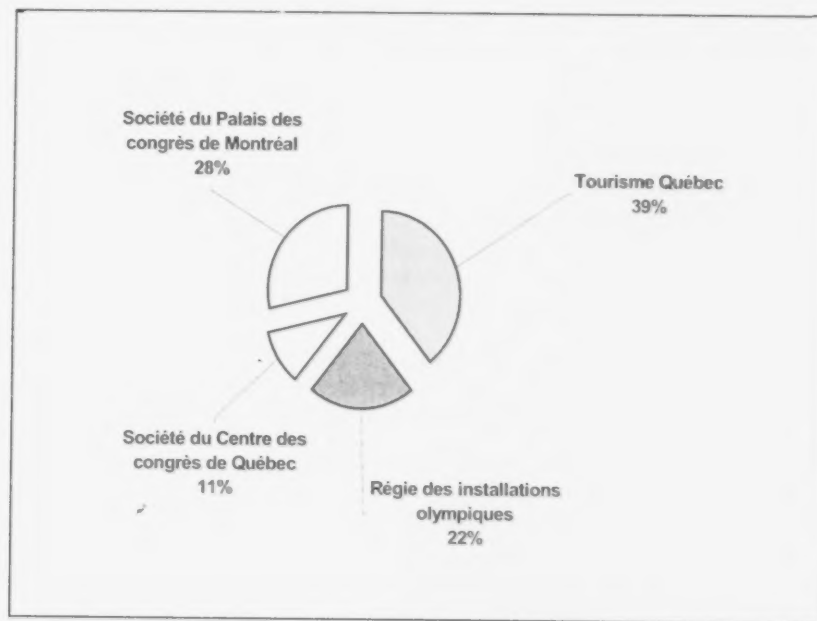
The second aims to increase public and private investments in developing supply as well as promoting regional tourism. To maximize the positive impact of tourism development on Québec's regions, the Department has resorted to new means of financing, in particular the specific tax on lodging. The budget allotted for this strategic orientation will be increase again in 2005-2006 with the addition of at least three new regions. Over 45% of the Tourism Partnership Budget will be devoted to supporting Québec's tourism industry.

The third will make it easier for Québec's tourism industry to meet the challenges of market segmentation and fiercer competition among tourist destinations. To sustain the growth of its tourism industry, Québec must keep up its promotional efforts in international markets. Nearly 40% of the Tourism Partnership Fund budget will be earmarked for this.

The fourth is to provide quality services for travellers in terms of hospitality and tourist information. Almost 10% of the Tourism Partnership Fund budget is allocated for this.

The new Québec Tourism Policy, which will soon be unveiled, will spell out lines of action, objectives, and expected results.

The Department's expenditure budget, including the contribution to organizations, amounts to \$138.6 million, which breaks down as follows:



3. BUDGET PLAN

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Promotion and Development of Tourism	138,647.1	9,278.5	129,368.6	145,968.5
Total	138,647.1	9,278.5	129,368.6	145,968.5
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	—	—	—	—

The \$9.3-million variance stems primarily from an increase in the appropriations to support investment projects (mainly the Granby Zoo), renovations to the Centre des congrès de Québec and long-term debt financing for the Palais des congrès de Montréal.

EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Extrabudgetary Agencies		
Régie des installations olympiques	45,838.0	48,708.0
Société du Centre des congrès de Québec	18,760.4	19,019.1
Société du Palais des congrès de Montréal	56,788.2	55,472.0

SPECIAL FUNDS**TOURISM PARTNERSHIP FUND**

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	110,190.0	105,705.0
Expenditure	112,190.0	109,205.0
Surplus (deficit)	(2,000.0)	(3,500.0)
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	344	344

The Tourism Partnership Fund was created on April 1, 1997 to strengthen the promotion and development of tourism in Québec.

The amount allocated for this Fund in 2005-2006 is estimated at \$110.2 million, with \$54.3 million coming from a Departmental appropriation and \$16.1 million from the Conseil exécutif's provision for carrying out government communication projects. The remainder basically comes from special taxes and partnerships.



TRANSPORTS

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ Investments of \$1.2 billion in the preservation, improvement and development of the highway system, for an increase of more than \$270 million compared to 2004-2005:
 - \$223 million for improvement of the highway system, particularly with regard to safety by the correction of curves and slopes, paving of shoulders and geometric redevelopment of several problem intersections;
 - \$518 million for the preservation of roadways and structures allowing rehabilitation of about 1,550 kilometres of roadway and interventions on about 370 structures;
 - \$347 million in the development of the highway system to improve the efficiency of major international and interregional corridors, translating, among other projects, into major work on Autoroutes 20, 50, 55 and 73 and on Highways 175 and 185.
- ❑ Expenditures of \$299.8 million for Public Transit Assistance (fixed assets, operation and adapted transportation), particularly allowing the transit authorities and the Agence métropolitaine de transport to continue rebuilding and development of public transit and replacement of rolling stock.
- ❑ Expenditures of \$60.4 million for maritime and air transportation service and the multimodal infrastructure assuring the promotion and support of maritime and rail transportation and maintenance of an adequate regional air transportation service.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Ministère des Transports' mission is to ensure the mobility of persons and goods throughout Québec by effective, safe transportation systems that contribute to the sustainable development of Québec.

It develops and recommends policies on transportation services, networks and systems to the government. To do so, it carries out the following activities:

- Planning, design and performance of construction, improvement, rebuilding, maintenance and operation of the road network and the other transportation infrastructures under its responsibility;
- Technical and financial support to the municipalities for maintenance, rebuilding and improvement of the local road system;
- Support for transportation systems for persons, particularly urban public transit, adapted transportation and regional maritime and air transportation;
- Development and implementation of transportation safety programs;
- Support for transportation of goods, by promoting intermodality and the use of different modes of transportation (road, rail, maritime and air).

While ensuring the mobility of persons and goods in Québec, these activities support the development of several sectors of the Québec economy related to transportation (manufacturing of transportation equipment and rolling stock, infrastructure construction, etc.).

The Minister is also responsible for several agencies making up the departmental portfolio. Thus, the Commission des transports du Québec, a budget-funded agency, and the Agence métropolitaine de transport and the Société des traversiers du Québec, extrabudgetary agencies, are part of the Minister's portfolio. Moreover, as the entity in charge of the Capitale-Nationale, the Minister is responsible for two Québec government agencies that operate in Capitale-Nationale Region: the Bureau de la Capitale-Nationale and the Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

The budgetary choices for the 2005-2006 fiscal year come under the following three orientations:

Orientation 1: Provide users with safe, functional transportation infrastructures in good condition

- Investments of \$223 million for improvement of the highway system, particularly with regard to safety.

The objective of the 2001-2005 Transportation Safety Policy-Road Component is to improve the road accident toll by 15% in relation to the average values observed during the 1995-2000 period. One of the key factors in the Department's strategy to achieve this objective concerns the improvement of road infrastructures.

Objective:

Contribute to improving the safety of users of the road infrastructures under the Department's responsibility through interventions with a view, in particular, to preventing or reducing accidents caused by going off the road and accidents at intersections.

Actions envisioned:

Correction of substandard curves and vertical profiles, widening of roadways, paving of shoulders, installation of guardrails and impact attenuators, geometric redevelopment of intersections.

These actions will be in addition to those involving road system maintenance and other measures such as supervision, research and development or communication campaigns.

- Investments of \$518 million for the preservation of the highway system's roadways and structures.

Given their aging, substantial resources must be allocated to the preservation highway system roadways and structures to improve the quality of the network and ensure its sustainability. Consequently, work of \$305 million will be performed on roadways and \$213 million on structures in 2005-2006.

Objectives:

Improve pavement quality and maintain the quality of road system structure that are under the Department's responsibility.

Actions envisioned:

Interventions concerning approximately 1,550 kilometres of roadways and some 370 structures on the highway system.

- Expenditures of \$366.5 million for the operation of highway infrastructures.

The interventions related to operation of the highway system and other infrastructures under the Department's management (airports, piers, etc.) are performed in accordance with stringent requirements in order to offer users a safe and functional system. These operating activities include winter maintenance, regular current summer maintenance, and highway system monitoring and highway corridor management activities.

Objective:

Ensure quality maintenance of highways under the Department's responsibility by giving priority to interventions that have an impact on safety.

Actions envisioned:

Winter maintenance in accordance with departmental requirements, adequate highway marking, forming of shoulders.

Orientation 2: Improve the efficiency of transportation systems within a sustainable development perspective

— Investments of \$347 million in road system development.

With a view to improving service to regions and markets and thus contributing to the economic development of Québec and its regions, several big improvement projects on major highway infrastructures will be under construction during the year.

Programs were implemented over the past years by the federal government to contribute to improving strategic highway infrastructures. The Gouvernement du Québec intends to obtain its fair share of these programs and enter into agreements which will have the effect of increasing the federal government's financial participation in improvement of Québec's strategic highway infrastructures.

Objective:

Improve the efficiency of the major international and interregional corridors, particularly by carrying out major improvement projects on the highway system.

Actions envisioned:

In 2005-2006, work will be performed, in particular, on Autoroute 20 (Ste-Luce/Mont-Joli section), Autoroute 30 (preparatory work), Autoroute 50 (Doherty/Thurso section, Grenville/Lachute section), Autoroute 55 (Trois-Rivières/Autoroute 20 section, Drummondville/ Windsor section), Autoroute 73 (St-Joseph/Beauceville section), Autoroute 73/Highway 175 (Stoneham, Rivière Pikauba), Highway 185 (Rivière-du-Loup/St-Antonin section, Dégelis), Boulevard McConnell-Laramée in Gatineau, service road to the McGill University Health Centre in Montréal, Autoroute du Vallon in Québec City.

— Expenditures of \$299.8 million for Public Transit Assistance.

In a sustainable development context, urban transportation choices seek to reconcile economic development and the public's quality of life. In this perspective, the Department will continue to support the growth of public transit ridership and the development of other public transit services through its assistance programs to these sectors.

Public transit assistance consists primarily of fixed asset assistance offered in six metropolitan regions to public transit authorities, to the Agence métropolitaine de transport and to the city of Montréal (subsidized debt service for the Métro), as well as operating assistance for agencies providing adapted transportation services, to municipalities and to intermunicipal transportation boards. In 2005-2006, the Department will allocate \$241.8 million to Public Transit Assistance for the fixed assets and operation components, including the balance of the special subsidy of \$20 million for the operation of public transit authorities. In addition, an amount of \$58 million will be allocated to Adapted Transportation Assistance.

Public transit authorities will also be able to take advantage of annual revenues of \$68 million from the \$30 contribution of motorists living in the authorities' territory, a contribution which is collected through vehicle registration fees. As well, the Agence métropolitaine de transport will continue to assume part of its financing through revenues from the tax of 1.5¢ per litre of gas collected in the greater Montréal region, with annual proceeds estimated at \$50.5 million.

The contribution of the Québec government to the financing of public transit in 2005-2006, either as subsidies (\$299.8 million) or from dedicated sources of revenue (\$118.5 million) should therefore total \$418.3 million.

Objective:

Promote the growth of use of urban modes of transportation other than the automobile.

Actions envisioned:

Review of the public transit funding framework by 2006; assistance to public transit fixed assets which, in particular, should allow continuation of the Métro renovation, continuation of the Métro extension to Laval, renewal of the bus fleet and improvement of commuter train services; assistance to the operation of several public transit services,

- Expenditures of \$60.4 million for multimodal infrastructures and maritime and air transportation service.

Serving regions and markets requires an efficient multimodal transportation system which contributes to Québec's sustainable development.

The Department favours the use of the maritime and rail modes and intermodal transportation by assistance programs to these sectors. It is in discussion with the federal government and the industry to establish a new tripartite assistance program for rail transportation and intermodal infrastructure. In addition, the Department provides financial support to ferry, maritime and air services for populations of remote and isolated regions.

Objectives:

Promote and support the use of rail, maritime and intermodal transportation, and promote and maintain an adequate air transportation service between the regions and the major centres.

Actions envisioned:

Establishment of a new tripartite assistance program for rail transportation and intermodal infrastructures; contribution to Air Canada to support regional air fares.

Orientation 3: Improve the organization's performance to provide better services to the public

- Studies on the establishment of public-private partnerships for certain transportation infrastructures and services.

Objective:

Evaluate and carry out, if deemed appropriate through partnerships, major infrastructure projects or projects related to departmental services.

Actions envisioned:

Continuation of partnership project studies and evaluation stages, particularly for Autoroute 30, Autoroute 25 and highway parks.

- Investments of \$40.3 million for improvement of departmental information systems and the establishment of a transportation portal and online services allowing improvement of services to the public, funded by the Department and the Road Network Preservation and Improvement Fund.

Objective:

Establish the government transportation portal and the priority departmental online services linked to it.

Actions envisioned:

Development of the government portal, development and online offering of departmental services.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The 2005-2006 budget plan takes into account the Department's major strategic issues. Thus, it will pursue its major investments in the preservation, improvement and development of the highway system by investing \$1,200 million, which represents an increase of over \$270 million in relation to last year. The resources allocated to the operation of infrastructures will be reduced to account for retirements and rationalization measures that will be implemented in 2005-2006.

The Assistance program for adaptation of vehicles for handicapped persons is transferred from the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec to the Department, requiring over \$10 million in additional funding. Moreover, the payment schedule of the Financial Assistance for the Local Road System Program will be reviewed and revised upwards in this budget. With regard to the Assistance to Public Transit Fixed Assets Program, its appropriations will increase \$33.7 million to enable public transit authorities and the Agence métropolitaine de transport to complete the investments in progress, in particular the renewal of the bus fleet, the addition of commuter trains, the renovation of Métro systems, and the extension of the Métro line to Laval. The other assistance programs are maintained, and some of them will see their budget adjusted to account for application standards or government commitments.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Transportation Infrastructures	1,296,084.0	92,646.2	1,203,437.8	1,186,149.6
2. Transportation Systems	394,883.9	45,472.2	349,411.7	344,567.6
3. Administration and Corporate Services	88,110.7	(7,638.6)	95,749.3	86,505.3
4. Promotion and Development of Québec's Capital	29,209.7	(2,096.1)	31,305.8	39,305.8
Total	1,808,288.3	128,383.7	1,679,904.6	1,656,528.3
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	3,798	(88)	3,886	—

The Department's expenditure budget presented in the above table increased \$128.4 million to \$1,808.3 million in 2005-2006 from \$1,679.9 million in 2004-2005. This change is primarily explained by the following factors:

- A \$104.8 million increase in the allocation for special funds, essentially to help finance the Road Network Preservation and Improvement Fund;
- A \$51.8 million increase in the forecast transfer expenditures, which results from the transfer from the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec of Assistance for Adaptation of Vehicles for Handicapped Persons Program, the increase in Assistance for the acquisition of Public Transit Fixed Assets Program, modification of the schedule of subsidy payments under the Financial Assistance for the Local Road System Program for 2005 and, finally, adjustment of the other assistance programs to account for the application standards in effect;
- A \$13.8 million reduction in the forecast operating expenditures, primarily under operating expenditures of transportation infrastructures;
- A \$14.4 million reduction in the forecast remuneration under the plan to reduce the size of government.

Program 1: Transportation Infrastructures

The purpose of this program is to ensure the improvement, repair, and maintenance of land, maritime, and air transportation infrastructures.

This program consists of the following activities:

- Contribution to the financing of the Road Network Preservation and Improvement Fund	\$709.6 million
- Transportation infrastructure maintenance	\$366.5 million
- Depreciation of highway infrastructures (prior to the creation of the Road Network Preservation and Improvement Fund) and other transportation infrastructures	\$104.9 million
- Financial Assistance for the Local Road System Program	\$114.5 million
- Other activities	\$0.6 million

The \$92.6 million increase in the 2005-2006 expenditure budget is essentially the net result of changes involving various activities.

The first involves the Department's contribution to the Road Network Preservation and Improvement Fund, which increased \$106.2 million. Infrastructure maintenance is reduced by \$23.7 million to account for retirements and the rationalization of expenditures forecast in 2005-2006. The Financial Assistance for the Local Road System Program is increased by \$9.3 million, primarily to account for the changes made to the schedule of subsidy payments.

Program 2: Transportation Systems

The purpose of this program is to set policies and regulations relating to transportation systems for persons and goods, to provide financial assistance for public transit authorities that provide transportation services and issue transportation or leasing permits for various modes of transportation, and to manage the Register of Owners and Operators of Heavy Vehicles.

This program consists of the following activities:

- Assistance for the acquisition of public transit fixed assets	\$219.9 million
- Assistance for the operation of certain public transit services	\$21.9 million
- Assistance for adapted transportation for handicapped persons	\$58.0 million
- Assistance for adaptation of vehicles for handicapped persons	\$10.3 million
- Assistance for maritime transportation, including a contribution to the financing of the Société des traversiers du Québec	\$53.8 million
- Operation of the Commission des transports du Québec	\$12.1 million
- Assistance for air transportation	\$5.4 million
- Other activities	\$13.4 million

The \$45.5 million increase in the 2005-2006 expenditure budget is the net result of changes to transfers. The principal increases are the following: Assistance for acquisition of public transit fixed assets increases by \$33.7 million following investments made by the different partners, including the acquisition of new buses, the extension of the Métro to Laval and the renovation of the Métro systems; Assistance for adaptation of vehicles for handicapped persons is transferred from the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec and requires a budget of \$10.3 million; Assistance for adapted transportation for handicapped persons increases by \$1.3 million.

Program 3: Administration and Corporate Services

The purpose of this program is to provide various management support services for the Department's activities and to ensure the development of transportation plans for passengers and goods. It also promotes expertise by supporting research and development activities.

This program consists of the following activities:

– Planning, administration and coordination of human, physical, financial and information resources	\$64.4 million
– Development of departmental orientations and policies and interventions on research and development	\$15.6 million
– Depreciation of fixed assets other than transportation infrastructures	\$8.1 million

The \$7.6 million decrease in the expenditure budget in 2005-2006 is essentially explained by a reduction of remuneration and operating expenditures.

Program 4: Promotion and Development of Québec's Capital

This program's objective is to support and promote the Capitale-Nationale region by reinforcing the role of Québec City as capital city, by contributing to the enhancement of its sites, monuments and activities, by empowering local and regional areas to take control of their development, and by supporting development and diversification of its economic base.

The \$2.1 million decrease in this program's expenditure budget is primarily explained by the reduction of remuneration and operating expenditures of the Commission de la capitale nationale.

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	44,097.0	42,784.8
Loans, Investments and Advances	200.0	333.2

The capital budget of \$44.3 million, which shows a slight increase of \$1.2 million, allows the Department to meet its commitments in the following areas: work relating to maritime and air transportation infrastructures, information systems development and purchases of material and equipment.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCY AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Budget-funded Agency		
Commission des transports du Québec	12,093.3	12,984.6
Extrabudgetary Agencies		
Agence métropolitaine de transport	238,038.0	230,392.0
Commission de la capitale nationale du Québec	15,002.7	16,797.6
Société des traversiers du Québec	61,814.3	61,297.1

SPECIAL FUNDS

ROAD NETWORK PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006	Probable 2004-2005
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Revenue	732,810.5	610,448.9
Expenditure	732,810.5	610,448.9
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	1,088,183.2	840,964.2
Staff Level (FTEs)	2,211	2,224

The Road Network Preservation and Improvement Fund is an investment fund allocated since April 1, 1996 to fund the preservation of roadways and structures, improvement and development of the road network.

Total disbursements forecast for 2005-2006 are \$1,200 million, an amount \$270.2 million greater than for the previous year.

These disbursements can be broken down into two categories:

- \$1,088.2 million in investments to increase service capacity that are capitalized and amortized based on the duration of their useful life, that is, between 10 and 30 years;

— Indirect costs estimated at \$111.8 million, treated as operating expenditures.

The Fund's expenditures, estimated at \$732.8 million for 2005-2006, represent the costs of operating expenditures for the current year and of debt service for fixed assets realized since its creation. These expenditures are covered in great part by a contribution of \$709.6 million from the Department, and from various partners including the federal government.

ROLLING STOCK MANAGEMENT FUND

	Forecast 2005-2006 (\$000)	Probable 2004-2005 (\$000)
Revenue	76,307.0	74,280.0
Expenditure	76,453.0	74,273.0
Surplus (deficit)	(146.0)	7.0
Investment	20,049.0	21,220.4
Staff Level (FTEs)	266	275

The Rolling Stock Management Fund was established on April 1, 1998 to finance the activities of the Centre de gestion de l'équipement roulant. The primary objective of the Centre is to ensure integrated management of the Department's rolling stock. It also offers services similar to various public agencies in Québec.

For 2005-2006, the Fund forecasts a slight deficit of \$146,000 out of a total budget of \$76.4 million, largely funded by the Department for an amount of \$57.2 million. A capital budget of \$20 million is also provided for renewing rolling stock for the Department and client agencies.

FUND FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF MOTORISTS TO PUBLIC TRANSIT

	Forecast 2005-2006 (\$000)	Probable 2004-2005 (\$000)
Revenue	68,095.2	66,760.0
Expenditure	68,095.2	66,760.0
Surplus (deficit)	0.0	0.0
Investment	—	—
Staff Level (FTEs)	—	—

The Fund for the Contribution of Motorists to Public Transit has been operating since January 1, 1992. Its purpose is to promote the development of urban public transit services. Its financing comes from a \$30 fee charged to vehicle owners in major urban areas throughout Québec when they renew their vehicle registration.

In 2005-2006, the revenue from this Fund, estimated at \$68.1 million, will be fully redistributed to public transit authorities.

FUND FOR THE SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES OF THE MINISTÈRE DES TRANSPORTS

	Forecast 2005-2006 (\$000)	Probable 2004-2005 (\$000)
Revenue	5,587.0	4,607.0
Expenditure	5,567.1	4,591.4
Surplus (deficit)	19.9	15.6
Investment	1,800.0	40.0
Staff Level (FTEs)	31	34

Since the fiscal year 2001-2002, the Centre de signalisation of the Department was converted into an agency by the Department, in accordance with the new management framework established by the Public Administration Act (R.S.Q., c. A-6.01).

The Fund for the Sale of Goods and Services of the Department has been allocated, since April 1, 2001, to the funding of activities related to the goods and services supplied by the Centre de signalisation, particularly for the development and manufacturing of road signs, information signs and for emergency traffic control device services for government departments and various public and private sector agencies.

For 2005-2006, the Fund presents a budget with revenue of \$5.6 million from the sale of traffic control devices, and anticipates a slight surplus. A capital budget of \$1.8 million is also forecast for the purchase of new variable message signs which will be rented to the various client agencies, primarily the Department, during roadwork.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ❑ The budget of the Ministère du Travail, excluding transfer appropriations, is mainly allotted to staff remuneration, which accounts for 75%. The remainder is allocated to material resources, to the rental of facilities and travel costs.
- ❑ The Department and budget agencies in the "Travail" portfolio do not manage any programs whose funding requirements might vary in response to demand for services. The expenditures required for operations and service delivery will not vary substantially during the year and remain within the established guidelines.

1. PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTER'S PORTFOLIO

The Department's mission is to ensure individuals have fair working conditions and to promote labour relations that foster respect and harmony in the work place as well as organizational performance. The Department has a large, diverse clientele. It primarily consists of salaried workers, employers, employer associations, unions, law and labour relations experts and researchers, and various interest groups and rights advocacy groups.

To meet the needs of its clients and the public in general, the Department has specific levers for action at its disposal; these levers are also the basis for its services:

- Labour legislation and policies;
- Labour relations services;
- Information on labour.

The Travail portfolio includes four budget agencies. Three assist the Department with carrying out its mission, while the fourth is dedicated to a specific area of intervention:

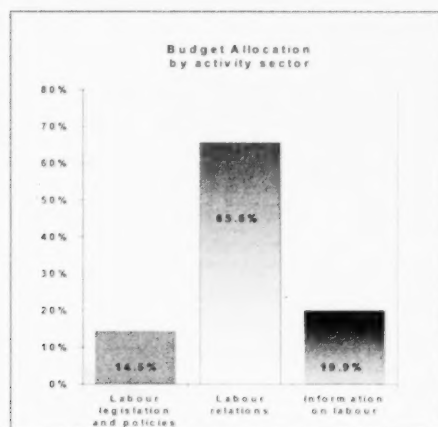
- The Conseil consultatif du travail et de la main-d'oeuvre sees to the collaboration between employer and union organizations so as to guide and support government action in work and labour matters;
- The Commission de l'équité salariale sees to the implementation of pay equity for Québec women. It must provide for the establishment of specific approaches or programs, and ensure that pay equity is maintained in enterprises;
- The Conseil des services essentiels ensures that the public continues to receive services deemed essential when the right to strike is exercised by employees in some public services within the Public Service or in health and social service network establishments;
- Régie du bâtiment du Québec sees to the quality of construction work and the safety of people who enter a building or facility that is intended for public use.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

THE MINISTÈRE DU TRAVAIL

The budget choices maintain or consolidate routine activities that are essential to the Department's mission.

These choices are tied to three orientations covering each of the Department's activity sectors, namely labour legislation and policies, labour relations services, and information on labour. The graph below depicts the overall breakdown of budget resources according to orientation.



Labour legislation and policies

The budgetary choices in this activity sector are related to the necessity of determining the legislative and administrative environment governing working conditions and labour relations. Because this activity serves the public interest, it requires active public participation, whether or not individuals are part of representative associations, economic or social organizations, interest groups or ad hoc groups.

First budgetary choice: Provide effective support for departmental and governmental decision making.

Targeted Results:

Labour Code

A Bill dealing with the following matters:

- Maintenance of essential services in homes for the elderly and public transit;
- Settlement of disputes in the municipal sector's collective labour relations system;
- Operation of the Commission des relations du travail.

2. BUDGETARY CHOICES

THE MINISTÈRE DU TRAVAIL

The budget choices maintain or consolidate routine activities that are essential to the Department's mission.

These choices are tied to three orientations covering each of the Department's activity sectors, namely labour legislation and policies, labour relations services, and information on labour. The graph below depicts the overall breakdown of budget resources according to orientation.



Labour legislation and policies

The budgetary choices in this activity sector are related to the necessity of determining the legislative and administrative environment governing working conditions and labour relations. Because this activity serves the public interest, it requires active public participation, whether or not individuals are part of representative associations, economic or social organizations, interest groups or ad hoc groups.

First budgetary choice: Provide effective support for departmental and governmental decision making.

Targeted Results:

Labour Code

A Bill dealing with the following matters:

- Maintenance of essential services in homes for the elderly and public transit;
- Settlement of disputes in the municipal sector's collective labour relations system;
- Operation of the Commission des relations du travail.

Non-standard employment and social protection

- Departmental orientations following up on the Bernier Report recommendations on the social protection required by persons in non-standard employment situations.

Construction industry:

- Negotiation of a new labour mobility agreement between Québec and Ontario;
- Deliberations on the labour relations system that may lead to legislative amendments.

In association with the Commission des normes du travail:

- Follow-up on the changes to and application of provisions regarding psychological harassment (*Act respecting Labour Standards* (R.S.Q., c. N-1.1)).

In support of the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale:

- Gradual retirement.

In support of the Ministère de la Famille, des Aînés et de la Condition féminine:

- Development of the government policy on work-family reconciliation.

Second budgetary choice: Improve the quality and effectiveness of the regulatory framework

Targeted Results:

Minimum wage:

- Triennial impact analysis of minimum wage trends.

Non-standard employment:

- Status report on research into new forms of employment relations conducted in association with all the other Canadian provinces.

Five-year study on labour condition trends in Québec (in partnership with other public bodies):

- Creation of coordinating bodies;
- Procedure to obtain the necessary funding;
- Development of measuring instruments.

Labour relations services

The Department intervenes with employer and union clienteles to facilitate dispute settlement and promote labour relations that are characterized by openness and mutual respect. It must ensure that its services are of consistently high quality, and suited to the specific challenges facing the parties. It also publicizes exemplary practices that help prevent and resolve disagreements. To provide motivation and support for organizational use of these practices, it promotes partnership approaches to businesses.

First budgetary choice: Provide clienteles with efficient and diligent labour relations services adapted to their needs

Targeted Results:

Shorter response time to mediation and conciliation requests:

- Compilation and measurement of current times;
- Establishment of improvement targets.

Medical tests:

- Improvement in the quality of medical notices;
- Reduction in the number of complementary notices.

Second budgetary choice: Promote and support improvement of labour relations practices

Targeted Results:

Organization of a forum with labour world partners:

- Gathering of over 300 participants with some ten separate workshops.

Development and dissemination of innovative practices:

- Preparation of 25 case studies;
- Production of supporting documentation for the forum;
- Distribution of work and follow-up tools from the forums.

Information on labour

The production and dissemination of information and knowledge on labour constitute an important lever for action with the Department's corporate and individual clients. Information on labour is a field that has grown steadily in recent years, especially through the Internet where the sharp rise in the number of users has created a new realm for discussion and transactions with the public. While enriching relationships with the public, information technology also provides many opportunities to improve service quality. Two budgetary choices relate to this.

First budgetary choice: Provide the public with efficient, courteous and diligent information and referral services

Targeted Results:

- Website contents and architecture upgrade;
- Online publication of new sets of documents with a tool for finding and searching documents (CORAIL project);
- Telephone calls: keeping response time under 60 seconds for 75% of calls.

Second budgetary choice: Maintain and develop a wide range of pertinent, reliable and regularly updated publications on labour

Targeted Results:

Maintenance of or increase in the production of data and statistics:

- Collective agreement analyses (1,300);
- Summaries of negotiated agreements (200);
- Index of negotiated wage hikes (quarterly);
- Collective agreement expiry dates (monthly);
- Work stoppage statistics (monthly);
- Daily list of strikes and lock-outs.

Maintenance of regular publications:

- Labour relations review;
- Review of work stoppages;
- Regards sur le travail: a labour research journal (three issues a year);
- Study on the bargaining process in the private sector;
- Unionization in Québec and North America;
- North American labour legislation comparisons (updated annually);
- Portrait of the content of collective agreements;
- Bulletin Info Travail (ten issues a year).

ACTIONS ENVISIONED TO REACH TARGETED RESULTS

— *Quality of products and services:*

The Department will conduct surveys of its clientele to assess their satisfaction with its mediation-conciliation services and line of labour publications. With a view to easing the regulatory and administrative load as well as improving service for its clientele, the Department also intends to shorten the timeframe for renewing or amending a collective agreement decree.

— *e-Government:*

The supply of online services remains a target for improvements, both in terms of the quality and adequacy of the information provided and information searches. It will also continue to be used as a public forum for discussion and public consultation when developing new orientations affecting the regulation of labour.

— *Human Resources:*

In keeping with the government plan, the Department will develop a forecast of the human resources required for it to continue fulfilling its mission. This projection is essential for defining a strategy for consolidating and developing organizational capacity while improving public services.

— *Cost-effective management of public funds:*

The cost of services will be reassessed using the criteria of efficiency, effectiveness and financial capacity with a view to maintaining or enhancing the quality of services and their benefits for the public. In the realm of administrative services, the Department will sustain the efforts made in recent years to optimize resource integration and sharing with several budget agencies under the "Travail" portfolio, particularly in the areas of informational, financial and physical resources, and human resource management.

RÉGIE DU BÂTIMENT DU QUÉBEC

First budgetary choice: *Provide accessible services tailored to the needs of the public and enterprises*

Objective: Improve access to services

- Increase response capacity;
- Provide staff with a technical and administrative knowledge base.

Objective: Set new rates more in line with costs

- Develop an approach with a view to regulatory reform.

Objective: Measure the quality of Régie services

- Survey of clientele.

Objective: Provide online access to a technical and administrative knowledge base

- Publish application guides, rulings, etc.

Objective: Improve the methods of assessing the competency of contractor candidates

- Use the Services Québec network for tests;
- Produce tests with random questions drawn from a pool.

Objective: Prepare a public communications plan to improve knowledge of standards, rights, obligations, and recourses

- Distribute new information material (at-risk sectors, guarantee plan).

Objective: Implement a plan for making designers, contractors and manufacturers aware of their obligations on the basis of risk analysis

- Determine and carry out educational activities together with the organizations active in this field.

Second budgetary choice: Establish a continuous improvement cycle for intervention based on risk analysis

Objective: Develop an integrated intervention plan based on risk analysis

- Complete the risk analysis;
- Plan integrated activities for prevention, awareness, licensing, supervision of participants and building and facility inspections.

Objective: Adjust the professional qualification process for contractors on the basis of eased regulations designed to provide better protection for the public

- Extend the use of technical exams to higher risk fields;
- Reduce the number of subcategories;
- Introduce a performance bond to replace the annual financial statements requirement.

Objective: In association with the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec and other agencies concerned, do an opportunity and impact study on the accessibility of existing buildings for the handicapped

- Report to the Minister of Labour.

Objective: Assess the value and impact of establishing a guarantee plan for the renovation sector

— Perform an opportunity study.

3. BUDGET PLAN

The "Travail" portfolio contains one program. The objective of this program is to develop, implement, supervise the application and coordinate the execution of policies and measures regarding minimum working conditions, labour relations, pay equity, quality of buildings and safety of users of public buildings and of technical installations. It is also designed to plan, administer and coordinate the human, physical, financial and information resources required to manage the portfolio.

The expenditure budget for 2005-2006 is \$63.7 million, or \$1.1 million less than in 2004-2005. This reduction is the result of cost-cutting measures. Probable expenditure for 2004-2005 exceeds the expenditure budget by \$10.8 million essentially due to the funds transferred from the Ministère des Finances provision for initiatives on revenues in the context of the effort to counter black market labour in the construction industry.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET BY PROGRAM

	2005-2006		2004-2005	
	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (1)	Change (\$000) (2)=(1)-(3)	Expenditure Budget (\$000) (3)	Probable Expenditure (\$000) (4)
1. Labour	63,732.9	(1,063.5)	64,796.4	74,581.7
Total	63,732.9	(1,063.5)	64,796.4	74,581.7
Staff Level (FTEs) (excluding special funds)	754	(13)	767	—

CAPITAL BUDGET

	2005-2006 (\$000)	2004-2005 (\$000)
Fixed Assets	16,370.8	12,370.8
Loans, Investments and Advances	1.0	1.0

The variation between the 2005-2006 and 2004-2005 capital budgets is primarily due to changes to the schedule for the Régie du bâtiment du Québec's project to modernize business systems and processes, and to its effects on disbursements in capital appropriations.

BUDGET-FUNDED AGENCIES AND EXTRABUDGETARY AGENCIES

	2005-2006	2004-2005
	Agency Budget	Agency Budget
	(\$000)	(\$000)
Budget-funded Agencies		
Commission de l'équité salariale	5,389.6	5,620.6
Conseil consultatif du travail et de la main- d'œuvre	424.4	429.5
Conseil des services essentiels	2,384.4	2,384.4
Régie du bâtiment du Québec	29,733.3	29,338.7
Extrabudgetary Agencies		
Commissaire de l'industrie de la construction	1,319.0	1,287.0
Commission des lésions professionnelles	53,357.1	52,886.4
Commission des normes du travail	56,757.4	52,196.0
Commission des relations du travail	14,565.2	13,569.5

